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British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1881-82

Colonies General

21

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1879.

(*In continuation of* [C.–2730.] *of September* 1880.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 1881.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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[C.—2829.]

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NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 1.

Governor Sir J. H. GLOVER, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Government House, November 23, 1880.

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book of Newfoundland for the year 1879, together with a copy of a report upon the same which has been submitted to me by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

From the COLONIAL SECRETARY to the GOVERNOR, Newfoundland.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of NEWFOUNDLAND for the year 1879.

Colonial Secretary's Office, St. John's, Newfoundland, November 22, 1880.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book of Newfoundland for the year 1879, and would respectfully offer a few observations on some of its contents.

Trade.

Referring to the trade of the Island it will be seen that the value of the year's imports amounted to $7,261,002, being an increase of $392,279 upon those of the preceding year. This difference arose principally upon importations of the produce of the Dominion provinces. The exports reached in value $5,918,924 being more by $288,933 than in 1878. The excess came from the large quantity of cod fish (being 300,000 quintals over 1878) shipped in 1879. Our exports to the United Kingdom show a comparative falling off, which is due to a short yield of copper ore in the mining districts; the shipments of cod and seal oils valuing considerably more than in the previous year. The prices of staple productions ranged generally lower in 1879.

In addition to the above amount of exports there were those from Labrador (not included in our official returns) which are estimated at a valuation of $1,190,849. This sum added to the above would make the total export from Newfoundland and

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Labrador $7,109,773, the export of cod fish being from Newfoundland proper, 994,334 quintals; Labrador, 407,962 quintals; total 1,402,296 quintals.

Fisheries.

The shore fishery was deficient, while that of Labrador was exceptionally productive. The fishery on the banks, which may yet be called a new industry, shows satisfactory progress, the outfit for 1879 giving 26 vessels with a catch of 17,077 quintals of fish against 10 vessels and 7,189 quintals in 1878.

The seal fishery was a slight improvement; it yielded in 1879 6,233 tons of oil and 457,855 skins, the result in 1878 being 5,905 tons and 419,220 skins.

The lobster fishery has not attained much development, but yet gives employment in factories to a number of our people, the export of last year being $116,880 worth.

Mining.

The result of the year's enterprise under this head shows a decrease. The total export was 28,405 tons of copper ore, chiefly from Belts Cove Mine, being 7,418 tons less than in the year before. Tilt Cove Mine, in consequence of a suit in equity pending between the proprietors, was not worked to any appreciable extent. The copper mine at Little Bay promises large development in the immediate future.

Revenue.

The total revenue realised $1,256,950, of which $921,075 was collected at the Customs. The balance arises from miscellaneous sources. The Customs portion was an increase of $133,000 upon that of 1878, the difference being caused by an impost of 15 per cent. levied on all Customs duties by the Revenue Act of the year.

The above total from all sources includes a sum of $218,186 taken from the Halifax fishery award to pay off a balance that had grown on the general account in preceding years; $26,880, a year's interest on the same award, and a loan of $15,192 to pay off debentures falling due.

Expenditure.

The expenditure amounted to $1,065,651, or deducting payment of loan, to $1,050,458.

The principal expenditures of the Colony are for steam communication, ocean and coastal, relief of the poor, roads and education, which services aggregated last year $454,209. The amount paid for salaries and pensions is in round numbers $200,000.

Public Debt.

This amounts to $1,451,390, the interest on which was $68,436.

Savings Bank.

The deposits in this institution exceeded those of 1878 by $41,945, the statement gives an aggregate of deposits of $1,134,505 in 1879 by 2,765 depositors. The Act Chap. XX of last year provides for the appropriation of the profits of the bank, say $14,000 to $15,000 per annum to the discharge of the debenture debt of the Colony.

Public Works.

There were no public works of general importance undertaken in 1879, the outlay under this head being chiefly for wharves and landing places for local convenience in several localities; I may, however, except the erection of an ocean lighthouse on Cabot Island, and a coast light on Pass Island in Fortune Bay.

Manufactures.

No new manufactures were introduced, but extensions took place in lines previously reported on.

Shipbuilding.

This industry exhibits considerable expansion, affording occupation to large numbers of men in the northern districts, especially during the winter season when other employment is not obtainable. There were 155 vessels of 5,958 tonnage built here in 1879, against 100 vessels of 4,181 tonnage in the year before.

Agriculture.

The cultivation of the soil has become a question to which the practical attention of our people must be more and more directed, as population is increasing without any corresponding addition to the means of subsistence. An increased number of land grants were taken up, which fact seems to point to agricultural extension in the near future, but there does not appear to have been any marked advance in this line during the last year.

Education.

The present school system seems to work with better results and more general satisfaction than that which it displaced. It is hoped that the Act of 1879 providing for the grading and examination of all teachers may stimulate progress. The want of complete returns for the year prevents a comparative analysis of operations under this head.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. SHEA,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir John H. Glover, G.C.M.G., Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA.

No. 2.

Governor the MARQUIS OF NORMANBY to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Melbourne,
October 29, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Digest of the Statistics for the year 1879, which has been carefully compiled by the Government Statist, for insertion in the Annual Parliamentary Blue Book, showing the condition and progress of the British Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NORMANBY.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

DIGEST of the STATISTICS of VICTORIA, 1879, by HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, Government Statist.

Position of Victoria.

1. Victoria is situated at the south-east of and is the southernmost Colony on the Australian continent, and consequently is often mistaken by English writers and others not well acquainted with Australian geography for an adjacant Colony which has been misnamed South Australia. It lies between the 34th and 39th parallells of south latitude, and the 141st and 150th meridions of east longitude. Its extreme length from east to west is about 420, its greatest breadth about 250, and its length of coast line nearly 600 geographical miles.

Area of Victoria.

2. According to the latest computation, the area of Victoria is 88,198 square miles or 56,446,720 acres. The whole continent of Australia is estimated to contain 2,983,264 square miles, and therefore Victoria occupies about a thirty-fourth part of its surface. Great Britain, exclusive of the Islands in the British seas, contains 89,644 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

Estimates of the population.

3. Estimates of the population are made quarterly by the Government Statist, but they are for certain reasons imperfect, principally because no account is or can be taken of the arrivals or departures overland. The next decennial census of the Colony is to be taken in 1881, and until then it will not be possible to ascertain the correct population.

Population at end of 1879.

4. The estimate of the population of Victoria at the end of the year 1879 was as follows :—

Population, 31st December 1879.

Males - - - -	489,559
Females - - - -	409,774
Total - -	899,333

Increase of population, 1879.

5. The increase of population during the year was 19,891, viz., 11,243 males and 8,648 females. Of this increase, about three-fourths, viz., 14,719, consisting of 6,694 males and 8,025 females, resulted from the excess of births over deaths, and the remainder, viz., 5,172, consisting of 4,549 males and 623 females, was due to excess of arrivals over departures.

Increase of population, 1869 to 1879.

6. The increase of population was greater than in the previous year by 1,236, and also exceeded that in the years 1872 to 1876, but was less than in 1877, or in any of the first three years of the previous decenniad, as will be seen by the following figures :—

Increase of Population.

1869 - -	25,176	1875 - -	14,835
1870 - -	26,809	1876 - -	17,028
1871 - -	25,846	1877 - -	20,487
1872 - -	18,282	1878 - -	18,655
1873 - -	19,765	1879 - -	19,891
1874 - -	17,945		

Males and females.

7. The proportions of the sexes in the population, viz., 84 females to 100 males, or 119 males to 100 females, have not varied in the last seven years.

Aborigines.

8. The aborigines of Victoria are fast decreasing. In 1877 they were estimated to number 1,067, viz., 633 males and 434 females.

Miners.

9. The number of miners at the end of 1879 was 37,553, as against 36,636 in the previous year. About 9,000 of those in 1879 were Chinese.

Immigration and emigration, 1879.

10. The arrivals and departures by sea during 1879, also the excess of the former over the latter, were as follows :—

Immigration and Emigration, 1879.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Arrivals by sea - - -	32,072	12,312	44,384
Departures by sea - - -	27,523	11,689	39,212
Excess of arrivals - -	4,549	623	5,172

VICTORIA.

Arrivals and departures, 1879 and former years.

11. The arrivals were in 1879 more numerous than in the previous year by 2,116; they also exceeded those in any other year since 1858. The departures in 1879 exceeded those in 1878 by 1,720, and were also in excess of those in any former year, except 1853 when they numbered 42,443. The only assisted immigration which took place during 1879 was that of 15 warrant passengers from the United Kingdom, viz., 7 males and 8 females.

Marriages, 1879.

12. The marriages celebrated in Victoria during 1879 numbered 4,986, as against 5,092 in the previous year. The excess in favour of 1878 was thus 106. Fewer marriages took place in 1879 than in either 1878 or 1877. The number in 1879 was nearly equalled in each of the years 1873 to 1876, but it was considerably in excess of that in any year prior to 1873. In the years 1878 and 1877 the marriages exceeded 5,000, but in the year under review they did not reach that number by 14.

Marriage rate.

13. The number of marriages compared with the total population is generally called the marriage rate. This in Victoria has for years past been declining, and in 1879 was only 5·61, or lower than in any previous year since the third from that in which the Colony was founded.

Marriage rates sometimes misleading.

14. It should be pointed out that the system of calculating marriage rates by finding the proportion that the marriages bear to the whole population, although it is followed in all countries which compile vital statistics, is a reliable guide whereby to estimate the condition of a community only when applied to countries which are in a normal state as regards age, but it is apt to mislead in regard to new countries in which at various stages of their history the age conditions are subject to be disturbed by accessions of population from without. For it is evident that if the number of persons at marriageable ages increases, marriages are likely to increase; but, if there is a falling off in the number of such persons, marriages must inevitably decline. It is found in practice that the fact of females being few as compared with males has little effect on the frequency of marriage, for it seldom happens except, perhaps, in communities existing in a very primitive state indeed that a man who decides to enter the marriage state cannot procure a wife when he pleases. The tendency of the marriageable males to marry is no doubt affected by their prosperity as well as the other circumstances by which they are surrounded. Of the intensity of these circumstances a marriage rate affords an indication, but it, to be of much value in countries when the elements of the population are disturbed, should be calculated so as to show the proportion of marriages to such males, instead of to the total population. The reason why the latter is the method generally employed when the former gives results so much more reliable is probably that the population, taken as a whole, can be estimated with tolerable correct-

ness at almost any time, whilst the number of single men at marriageable ages can only be ascertained when a census is taken.

Proportion of marriages to population and single men.

15. The following is a statement of the population, the number of bachelors aged 20 and upwards, and widowers at all ages, and the number of marriages in the last four census years, also of the proportion of the marriages to the whole population and to the marriageable men at the same periods:—

Proportion of Marriages to Population and to Marriageable Men.

Year of Census.	Population.	Bachelors aged 20 and upwards and Widowers at all Ages.	Marriages.	Proportion of Marriages.	
				Per 1,000 of Population.	Per 1,000 Bachelors and Widowers.
1854	267,371	70,865	3,765	14·08	53·13
1857	430,347	95,427	4,524	10·51	47·41
1861	541,012	106,940	4,434	8·20	41·46
1871	738,725	89,921	4,693	6·35	52·19

Marriage rates at different periods compared.

16. The last column but one, which gives the marriage rate calculated according to the principle generally adopted, shows a very considerable decrease at each period as compared with the previous one, and a reference to a former paragraph will show a still further decline for the year 1879 in which only 5·61 marriages took place per 1,000 persons living. A very different state of things is, however, indicated in the last column, in which the marriage rate, calculated according to the more correct principle, shows some decline it is true between the first and second periods, and the second and third periods, but a revival between the third and last periods to nearly the same rate as that which prevailed at the first period, which, being that of the most exciting time of the gold discoveries, was one during which marriage was often entered upon most recklessly.

Tendency to marriage not declining.

17. It is thus clearly proved that at the date of the last census, the true marriage rate was not only not declining, but had increased greatly, there is reason to believe that the census to be taken next year will show a smaller number of marriageable men than there were at that period; but as the marriages have maintained their numbers, it will follow that, although a comparison of the marriages with the whole population may cause an impression that the tendency to marry is decreasing, a similar comparison with the number of single males at marriageable ages will prove that this is not the case, but on the contrary that such a tendency is as great as, if not greater than, it was at any former period.

Marriages of Aborigines and Chinese.

18. The marriages of seven aboriginal males with aboriginal females are included in the returns of 1879. In the same year 11 Chinese were married to persons of European birth or origin.

Marriages by different sects.

19. The marriage ceremony in Victoria may be performed either by the registered clergy of any religious sect or by lay registrars.

In 1879 rather more than 89 per cent. of the marriages were celebrated according to the former, and nearly 11 per cent. according to the latter system. Lay marriages are becoming more and more popular. The number performed during 1879 exceeded by 147 the number in 1878, and was still greater than in any previous year. The following table gives a statement of the number and per-centage of marriages celebrated by each religious sect and by lay registrars during 1879, and during the previous 10 years.

Marriages by different Denominations.

Marriages performed according to the Usages of the	Marriages celebrated in the			
	Year 1879.		Ten years, 1869 to 1878.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Church of England -	1,237	24·81	12,073	24·65
Presbyterians - -	974	19·53	10,057	20·53
Wesleyans - -	910	18·25	8,676	17·71
Independents - -	224	4·49	2,677	5·47
Baptists - -	193	3·88	1,727	3·53
Lutherans - -	49	·98	518	1·06
Unitarians - -	—	—	11	·02
Society of Friends -	1	·02	4	·01
Calvinistic Methodists -	7	·14	98	·20
Roman Catholic Church	776	15·57	9,104	18·59
Jews - - -	27	·54	207	·42
Other sects - -	57	1·14	498	1·02
Lay registrars - -	531	10·65	3,329	6·79
Total - -	4,986	100·00	48,979	100·00

Signing with marks.

20. The numbers of either sex who evinced their want of elementary education by signing the marriage register with a mark instead of in writing were as follows in 1879, the proportion of those who signed with marks to the total numbers married being also shown :—

Signing Marriage Register with Marks, 1879.

Persons married.	Numbers Married.	Signing with Marks.	
		Total Number.	Number in every 100 Married.
Bridegrooms - - -	4,986	190	3·81
Brides - - -	4,986	279	5·60
Mean - -	4,986	235	4·71

Ages of persons married.

21. The age of both bride and bridegroom was specified in the case of all but 78 of the 4,986 marriages which took place in 1879. In 67 of the defective entries the age of neither party was given; in five cases the age of the husband was stated, not that of the wife; and in six cases the age of the wife was given, not that of the husband. The following table shows the ages of the husbands and of the wives in combination.

Ages of Persons married, 1879.

Ages of Husbands.	Ages of Wives.																				Total Husbands.
	13 to 14.	14 to 15.	15 to 16.	16 to 17.	17 to 18.	18 to 19.	19 to 20.	20 to 21.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 to 75.	Unspecified.	
17 to 18 years -	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
18 to 19 „ -	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
19 to 20 „ -	—	—	1	1	8	4	10	6	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42
20 to 21 „ -	—	—	—	2	5	16	17	18	26	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	88
21 to 25 „ -	1	—	1	20	77	126	178	195	851	119	8	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,580
25 to 30 „ -	—	—	2	13	36	67	107	137	716	256	40	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1,388
30 to 35 „ -	—	1	1	6	14	30	31	54	268	179	62	24	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	676
35 to 40 „ -	—	—	—	2	6	20	15	29	113	114	44	52	23	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	424
40 to 45 „ -	—	—	—	—	2	9	9	7	40	54	53	36	32	8	6	1	—	—	—	—	257
45 to 50 „ -	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	4	26	29	40	42	32	27	5	—	—	—	—	1	211
50 to 55 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	10	35	24	20	18	13	4	—	—	—	—	133
55 to 60 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	8	7	8	7	6	6	1	—	—	—	52
60 to 65 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	3	4	6	8	3	3	—	—	—	33
65 to 70 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	—	13
70 to 75 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	6
75 to 80 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
80 to 85 „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Unspecified -	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67	73
Total wives -	1	1	5	46	151	275	372	455	2,063	776	295	201	129	76	42	16	7	1	2	72	4,986

NOTE.—This table may be read thus:—Two men between 40 and 45 married girls between 17 and 18; a woman between 60 and 65 married a man between 30 and 35, &c.

Relative ages of husband and wife.

22. An examination of the above table will show that in 1,332 instances, or 27 per cent. of the whole, both parties to the marriage were about the same age; in 317 instances, or 7 per cent. of the whole, the wife was older than the husband, and in 3,259 instances, or 66 per cent. of the whole, the husband was older than the wife. These proportions differ but slightly from those in the previous two years.

Births, 1879.

23. The births registered in Victoria during 1879 numbered 26,839, as against 26,581 in 1878. The increase in the year under review, as compared with the previous one, was thus 258.

Births in 1879 and former years.

24. The births in 1879 were not so numerous as those in 1868, or in the four years 1870 to 1873, but, with these exceptions, they exceeded the number in any other year.

Birth rate.

25. The birth rate, which has, like the marriage rate, been decreasing for years past, was in 1879 30·21 for 1,000 of the total population.

Birth rates sometimes misleading.

26. Calculations affecting the birth rate, based upon a comparison of the number of births with the total population, are, like the marriage rate, apt to mislead, unless the population is in a normal condition in regard to age. It must be quite evident that, if there is not a sufficient proportion of women at the fruitful or child-bearing ages in a community, the birth rate cannot be high, but that an excess of women at such ages may cause a high birth rate. The frequency of marriages also affects the birth rate, and there are other circumstances, owing to which, in some countries where, notwithstanding that the proportion of women of fruitful age is quite up to the average and marriages are numerous, the birth rate is still low. The census of 1881 may be expected to throw light upon this as well as on many other social questions of the deepest interest.

Births of males and females.

27. The births of males in Victoria during 1879 numbered 13,727, those of females 13,112. These numbers furnish a proportion of 104·7 boys to 100 girls. In the previous 10 years 137,412 births of males and 131,502 births of females were registered, giving a proportion of 104·5 boys to 100 girls.

Twins and triplets.

28. Cases in which twins were born numbered 311 in 1879, and 4 cases occurred of triplets being born. In the 11 years ended with 1879, 2,769 cases of twins and 22 cases of triplets were recorded, the total number of births in the same period having been 295,753. There were thus 292,940 confinements in the 11 years, and it follows that 1 mother in every 106 gave birth to twins, and 1 mother in every 13,443 was delivered of three children at a birth.

Illegitimate births.

29. The illegitimate children born in 1879 numbered 1,304, or 1 in every 21 births registered. This proportion is much greater than in any previous year. The illegitimate births in 1878 were set down as 1 in 24; in 1877 as 1 in 26; in 1876 as 1 in 27; in 1875 as 1 in 34; in 1874 as 1 in 28; and in 1873 as 1 in 31 In the last 11 years, out of 295,753 infants born 10,057 were traced as having been born out of wedlock, which numbers furnish a proportion of 1 illegitimate child to every 29 births.

Women living in concubinage.

30. According to a calculation, the basis of which I have more than once explained,* it follows, from the number of births of legitimate children, that, approximately, 84,834 married women at the fruitful or child-bearing age were living in the Colony during 1879, and from the number of births of illegitimate children that, exclusive of public prostitutes, who, as they rarely have children, are omitted from the computation, at least 4,332 single women at a similar period of life were living in concubinage. The total number of single women between 15 and

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* See Victoria Year Book 1873, paragraph 286; and Victoria Year Book 1874, paragraph 490.

45 years of age may be estimated to have been 90,662 during the year. It therefore follows that 1 out of every 20 of these was living immorally.

Illegitimacy in Australasian Colonies.

31. Besides Victoria, the only Australasian Colonies which publish statistics of illegitimacy are, apparently, New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand. According to these, illegitimacy was, over a series of years, most rife in New South Wales, next so in Victoria, next in Queensland, and least of all in New Zealand. During the seven years ended with 1878 the proportion of illegitimate children to every 100 born was 4·12 in New South Wales, 3·49 in Victoria, 3·19 in Queensland, and 1·80 in New Zealand.

Deaths, 1879.

32. The deaths in 1879 numbered 12,120, as against 12,702 in 1878. The decrease in the year under notice was thus 582.

Deaths, 1879 and former years.

33. The deaths in 1879 were less numerous than in any year of the previous quinquenniad, but more so than in any year prior to that period. It may be observed that the year in which the highest mortality prevailed was 1875, in which the number of deaths was 15,287, or as many as 3,167 more than in the year under review.

Excess of births over deaths.

34. The births in 1879 exceeded the deaths by 14,719, or 121 per cent. In the 11 years ended with 1879 the proportion was 124 per cent.

Deaths of males and females.

35. Deaths of males in 1879 numbered 7,033, and deaths of females 5,087. These numbers furnish a proportion of 72 females to every 100 males, as against 77 in the previous year. Females in the total population are in the proportion of 84 to every 100 males; therefore more males and fewer females died in both years, than their relative numbers in the population might have given reason to expect.

Annual death rate.

36. In 1879 the deaths were in the proportion of 13·64 to every 1,000 persons living; or of 14·55 deaths of males to every 1,000 males living, and of 12·56 deaths of females to every 1,000 females living.

Normal death rate.

37. However favourable may be the circumstances for prolonging life, as all must die at some time or other, it is evident that every country must have a death rate; but it has been held by high authority that in countries in which the climate is healthy, hygiene properly attended to, and the population in a normal condition as regards age, the ordinary mortality incident to human nature would probably cause this death rate to be in the proportion of about 17 per 1,000 persons living. In Victoria the death rate reached as high as that only once in the last 11 years. In 1879 it was $3\frac{1}{3}$ deaths below it per 1,000 persons living, and, according to the average annual mortality of the 11 years, it was nearly 2 below it per 1,000 persons living. It should, however, be borne in mind that the last of the conditions just

mentioned seldom exists in new countries, so that death rates, based merely upon their total populations in common with birth and marriage rates calculated upon a like basis, are not always fair tests of the state of communities. If the proportion of very young or old people is high, the death rate will be also high; but if, on the other hand, the number of persons at the middle age is excessive, the death rate will be low. Until the next census is taken the conditions of the people of Victoria as regards age cannot be known.

Infantile mortality, 1879.

38. The death rate of infants in 1879 was less than in 1878, and was also slightly below the average. The total number who died under 1 year of age was 3,219, and as the births numbered 26,839, it follows that 1 infant died to every 8 births, or 11 · 99 infants to every 100 births. In the 11 years 1868 to 1878, the proportion of infants dying before completing their first year, was 12 · 11 to every 100 births.

Classification of causes of death.

39. The causes of death in Victoria, as in the United Kingdom, are arranged in classes and orders, according to the system proposed by Dr. William Farr, F.R.S., then of the General Register Office, London, in conjunction with Dr. Marc d'Espine, and first made public by the former in his report, dated 15th February 1856, to the International Statistical Congress held in Paris 1855–6.

Causes of death classified.

40. The following table shows the causes of death in classified arrangement, also the total number who died from each cause during the 25½ years ended with 1878:—

Causes of Death in classified Arrangement. (25½ *Years*, 1853–1878, *and Year* 1879.)

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.	
			25½ Years, 1853–1878.	Year 1879.
		All causes - - - -	262,130	12,120
		Specified causes - - - -	260,529	12,084
		CLASSES.		
I.	—	Zymotic diseases - - - -	80,759	2,879
II.	—	Constitutional diseases - - -	34,301	1,790
III.	—	Local diseases - - - -	86,858	5,030
IV.	—	Developmental diseases - -	36,977	1,570
V.	—	Violent diseases or deaths - -	21,634	815
		ORDERS.		
I.	1	Miasmatic diseases - - -	74,378	2,484
	2	Enthetic diseases - - - -	664	52
	3	Dietic diseases - - - -	4,265	259
	4	Parasitic diseases - - - -	1,452	84
II.	1	Diathetic diseases - - - -	6,927	484
	2	Tubercular diseases - - -	27,374	1,306

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.	
			25½ Years, 1853–1878.	Year 1879.
III.	1	Brain diseases	28,057	1,378
	2	Heart diseases	11,672	805
	3	Lung diseases	24,390	1,504
	4	Bowel diseases	18,407	997
	5	Kidney diseases	2,717	265
	6	Gennetic diseases	450	24
	7	Bone and muscle diseases	623	24
	8	Skin diseases	542	33
IV.	1	Developmental diseases of children	12,557	416
	2	" " women	2,582	127
	3	" " old people	3,590	316
	4	Diseases of Nutrition	18,248	711
V.	1	Accident	19,547	691
	2	Battle	—	—
	3	Homicide	459	15
	4	Suicide	1,557	108
	5	Execution	71	1
		DISEASES, &c.		
I.	1	Small-pox	21	—
		Chicken-pox	40	—
		Measles	3,844	3
		Scarlatina	8,623	61
		Diphtheria	7,497	337
		Quinsy	593	14
		Croup	3,704	275
		Whooping cough	4,105	193
		Typhoid fever, &c.	10,608	438
		Erysipelas	972	57
		Metria	653	38
		Carbuncle, boil, &c.	59	4
		Influenza, coryza, catarrh	839	32
		Dysentery	12,246	140
		Diarrhœa	17,016	698
		Cholera	1,193	43
		Ague	88	5
		Remittent fever	675	11
	1	Rheumatism	1,196	105
		Miasmatic diseases, not classed	406	30
	2	Syphilis	514	41
		Gonorrhœa, stricture of the urethra	148	11
		Glanders	2	—
	3	Privation	408	14
		Want of breast-milk	1,877	170
		Puerpura and scurvy	262	14
		Alcoholism	1,691	60
		Other dietic diseases	27	1
	4	Thrush	939	22
		Worms, &c.	58	1
		Hydatids	436	60
		Other parasitic diseases	19	1
	1	Gout	151	15
		Dropsy	1,957	50
		Cancer	3,850	383
		Tumour	364	23
		Polypus	9	—
		Noma	62	9
		Mortification	365	4
		Other diathetic diseases	169	—

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.	
			25½ Years, 1853–1878.	Year 1879.
	2	Scrofula	967	35
		Tabes mesenterica	2,115	61
		Phthisis	19,635	1,058
		Hydrocephalus	3,947	120
		Other tubercular diseases	710	32
III.	1	Cephalitis	4,180	274
		Apoplexy	4,624	315
		Paralysis	2,241	187
		Insanity*	255	—
		Chorea	37	6
		Epilepsy	1,017	76
		Convulsions	9,350	252
		Other diseases of the nervous system	6,353	268
	2	Pericarditis	667	40
		Aneurism	1,376	87
		Other diseases of the circulatory system	9,629	678
	3	Laryngitis	798	59
		Bronchitis	7,611	547
		Pleurisy	1,410	64
		Pneumonia	10,335	508
		Congestion of the lungs, pulmonary apoplexy	2,186	222
		Asthma	636	40
		Other diseases of the respiratory system	1,414	64
	4	Gastritis	2,410	149
		Enteritis	4,740	193
		Peritonitis	1,450	80
		Ascites	412	12
		Ulceration of intestines	368	13
		Hernia	370	13
		Ileus	719	39
		Intussusception	158	15
		Stricture of intestines	67	6
		Fistula	39	1
		Stomach diseases, undefined	1,212	87
		Pancreas disease	13	—
		Hepatitis	2,075	96
		Jaundice, gall-stone	801	57
		Liver disease undefined	3,489	230
		Spleen disease	84	6
	5	Nephritis	326	26
		Ischuria	58	5
		Nephria	802	91
		Diabetes	199	18
		Stone, gravel	88	2
		Cystitis	256	44
		Other diseases of the urinary organs	988	79
	6	Ovarian dropsy	94	7
		Other diseases of the generative organs	356	17
	7	Arthritis	125	4
		Ostitis, periostitis	34	4
		Other diseases of the locomotive system	464	16
	8	Phlegmon, whitlow	49	2
		Ulcer	164	14
		Other diseases of the skin	329	17

* Deaths from this cause are now usually returned under other heads.

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths	
			25½ Years, 1853–1878.	Year 1879.
IV.	1	Premature birth	4,717	294
		Cyanosis	307	25
		Spina bifida	212	9
		Other malformations	631	29
		Teething	6,679	59
		Other developmental diseases of children	11	—
	2	Paramenia	83	4
		Childbirth	2,498	123
		Other developmental diseases of adults	1	—
	3	Old age	3,590	316
	4	Atrophy and debility	18,248	711
	1	Fractures, contusions, &c.	6,649	295
V.		Wounds	469	25
		Burns and scalds	2,013	103
		Sunstroke	379	22
		Struck by lightning	33	2
		Poison	344	15
		Snake or insect bite	69	1
		Drowning	4,384	171
		Suffocation	1,451	47
		Other or unspecified accidents	3,756	10
	3	Murder and manslaughter	459	15
	4	Wounds	469	25
		Poison	295	20
		Drowning	304	15
		Hanging	428	42
		Suicide by other means	61	6
	5	Judicial hanging	71	1
		Causes not specified	1,601	36

41. In 1879, as in 1878 and 1877, the mortality from zymotic diseases was below the average. This has been especially noticeable in regard to those zymotic complaints affecting children, from which, since the abatement of the epidemics which prevailed in 1875 and 1876, the mortality has not been high. In the three years named the death rate from zymotic diseases generally was lower than the English rate, and in 1879 it was lower than it had been in Victoria for many years. The death rate from scarlatina and diphtheria, from typyoid fever, and even from diarrhœa were in 1879 below the English rates, which especially as regards the last-named is a very unusual circumstance. The zymotic diseases from which in 1879 the death rate was above the average in Victoria, were croup, metria (slightly), and venereal disease. Zymotic diseases.

42. Deaths from typhoid fever in 1879 numbered about 100 less than in either 1878 or 1877, but was still above the average of the last 13 years. If however they be compared with population, they will be found to have been below the average. The following table shows the number of deaths from typhoid fever, Typhoid fever.

and their proportion to the population, during each of the past 13 years :—

Deaths from Typhoid Fever, 1867 *to* 1879.

Year.	Deaths from Typhoid Fever.	
	Total Number.	Number per 10,000 Persons living.
1867	455	7·00
1868	295	4·39
1869	360	5·17
1870	416	5·86
1871	269	3·64
1872	323	4·24
1873	282	3·61
1874	470	5·88
1875	455	5·58
1876	375	4·51
1877	532	6·26
1878	532	6·12
1879	438	4·93
Mean - -	400	5·17

Constitutional diseases.

43. Under Class II., constitutional diseases, those under Order 1, diathetic diseases, were above, and those under Order 2, tubercular diseases, were below the average. The increase under the former head was due to cancer, the rate from which has of late years been much above the average, and in the last three years even exceeded the rate in England, where it is also increasing. This painful disease stood ninth in the list in 1879, fourteenth in 1878, and eleventh in 1877, the twenty-first being its usual position. Under the latter head, both hydrocephalus and pthisis were below the average.

Deaths from phthisis.

44. Deaths from phthisis in 1879, which numbered 1,058, were less than in 1878 or 1877, but greater than in any other previous year. Phthisis in Victoria is, upon the average, the most destructive of all diseases. A greater mortality in 1875 resulted from measles, and in 1876 from scarlatina than from phthisis, but these epidemics having subsided, phthisis again resumed its place at the head of the list of the causes of death.

Death rate from phthisis.

45. The annual death rate from phthisis has for many years past never been so low as 11, nor so high as 13, per 10,000 persons living. In 1879 the rate was 11·9 for 10,000 which was lower than in any year since 1872, or than in any other of the last 16 years except 1871, 1868, and 1864.

Ages at which phthisis is most fatal.

46. The mortality from this complaint was in 1879 highest between the ages of 25 and 45, but it was also high between 15 and 25 and between 45 and 65. The value of these facts is, however, affected by the relative proportions of those living at the different ages, which is not at present accurately known.

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47. The death rate from phthisis in Melbourne and suburbs, which is always much greater than in the remainder of the Colony, usually fluctuates between 20 and 23 deaths for 10,000 persons living, and averaged during the last 19 years 21·97. In 1879 the rate was 21·77. Death rate from phthisis in Melbourne.

48. The death rate under Class III., local diseases, was above the average. This arises from the increased mortality from those classed as diseases of the circulatory, respiratory, urinary, and integumentary systems. Under the first of these the mortality from heart disease was, as in the previous year, much above the average, and rose from the eighth, its usual position, to the fifth place on the list of causes of death. Under diseases of the respiratory system the two most fatal complaints, pneumonia and bronchitis, together caused over 1,000 deaths in 1879, and stood respectively sixth and seventh on the list. In the same year the death rate from urinary diseases was half as high again as the average, and even exceeded the rate prevailing in England and Wales. On the other hand, the death rate from diseases of the nervous, digestive, generative, and locomotive systems was, both in 1878 and 1879, below the average. Local diseases.

49. Under Class IV., developmental diseases, the death rate from those peculiar to children, Order 1., and from diseases of nutrition, which are also those of children only, Order 4, was much below the average. The death rate from those peculiar to adults, Order 2, was slightly below the average, but the death rate from old age, Order 3, was much above the average. Premature birth :—The principal cause of death in 1879 under Order 1 caused 294 deaths, which number gives a proportion of 9 per cent. of the total deaths under 1 year, and amounts to rather more than 1 per cent. of the total births recorded. The principal disease under Order 2, is childbirth, which will be referred to presently in connexion with metria. Developmental diseases.

50. Deaths from external causes, Class V., were much below the average. Of the 815 violent deaths recorded in Victoria during 1879, 691, or 85 per cent., were ascribed to accident; 15, or 2 per cent., to homicide; 108, or 13 per cent., to suicide; and 1 to execution. Deaths from accidents were formerly more numerous than those from any single disease, but in 1879 they were less than the deaths caused by either phthisis, atrophy, or diarrhœa; 43 per cent. of these deaths were due to fractures, and 25 per cent. to drowning. Homicides were below but suicides were above the average; only twice in the last 13 years did the number of the latter exceed 100, viz., in 1876 and in the year under review. Violent deaths.

51. During the 11 years ended with 1879, 75,625 males and 55,987 females died of specified causes; of the former, 1 in every 10 died a violent death; 1 in every 11 died of an accident; 1 in every 533 was a victim to homicide; 1 in every 95 committed suicide; and 1 in every 2,909 was executed. Of the latter 1 in every 29 died a violent death; 1 in every 33 died of an accident; Proportion of violent to total deaths.

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1 in every 691 died by the hand of another; 1 in every 320 committed suicide; but happily, not one was executed.

Deaths in childbed.

52. The death rate from a given complaint is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths from it with the number of persons living, but the death rate of women in childbed is better realized by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of births. Such deaths are classified in two ways. If the death is supposed to occur merely from the consequences of child-bearing without specific disease it is set down as of childbirth, Class IV., Order 2; but, if it should arise from puerperal fever, it is placed under the head of Metria, Class I., Order 1. The deaths from child-bearing, have been more numerous in proportion to the births during the last seven years than they were previously; but in 1879 they were less than in any year since 1872. The following are the deaths, and death rate from these complaints during the last 16 years:—

Deaths of Women in Childbirth, 1864 *to* 1879.

Year.	Number of Mothers who died of			Deaths of Mothers to every 10,000 Children born alive.
	Childbirth.	Metria.	Total.	
1864 - -	100	21	121	47·12
1865 - -	99	24	123	47·46
1866 - -	112	26	138	55·18
1867 - -	117	20	137	53·51
1868 - -	110	23	133	48·82
1869 - -	105	18	123	47·23
1870 - -	115	9	124	45·67
1871 - -	90	12	102	37·25
1872 - -	123	16	139	50·80
1873 - -	127	44	171	60·85
1874 - -	142	109	251	93·66
1875 - -	154	83	237	88·70
1876 - -	117	48	165	61·64
1877 - -	131	42	173	66·51
1878 - -	149	49	198	74·49
1879 - -	123	38	161	59·99
Total in 16 years -	1,914	582	2,496	58·70

Deaths in childbed in United Kingdom.

53. The proportion of women dying in childbed during the whole period of 16 years was 1 to 170 births, but in 1879 the proportion was 1 to every 166 births. In 1878 the proportion was 1 to every 134 births; in 1877, 1 to every 150 births; in 1876, 1 to every 162 births; in 1875, 1 to every 113 births; and in 1874, 1 to every 107 births. All these proportions are higher than those in England and Wales, where, in the 28 years ended with 1874, 200 births occurred to each death of a mother. In Scotland during 1873, 1 woman is stated to have died in childbirth to every 207 births, and in Ireland during 1875, 1 to every 138 births. The former rate is not so high as but the latter is higher than the average rate in Victoria.

Deaths of women in Lying-in Hospital.

54. In the Melbourne Lying-in Hospital, during 1879, 638 women were confined, and 602 infants were born alive. Nine deaths of mothers occurred during or shortly after parturition. Thus 1 death of a mother occurred to every 71 deliveries or to every 67 births.

Sickness and deaths in general hospitals.

55. There are 34 general hospitals in Victoria, 8 of which are also benevolent asylums. The total number of cases of sickness treated in these institutions during 1879 was 14,984, and the number of deaths was 1,452. In 1878, the cases of sickness treated numbered 15,122 and the deaths 1,544. There was thus 1 death to every 10·3 cases of sickness treated in hospitals during 1879, as against 1 death to every 9·8 cases of sickness treated therein during the previous year.

Deaths in public institutions

56. Altogether the number of deaths in penal or charitable institutions in 1879 was 2,084, or 1 to every 6 deaths which took place in Victoria during the year. The deaths in such institutions were in 1878 and in 1877 in the same proportion as in 1879, in 1876 in that of 1 to every $6\frac{1}{2}$, in 1875 in that of 1 to every $7\frac{1}{3}$, and in 1874 and 1873 in that of 1 to every 6 deaths which took place in the whole Colony. The following are the names of the institutions and the number of deaths which occurred in each during 1879:—

Deaths in Public Institutions, 1879.

Description of Institutions.	Number of Deaths.
General hospitals	1,452
Hospital for Diseases of Women and Children	13
Lying-in Hospital	56*
Hospital for Sick Children	25
Benevolent asylums	176
Melbourne Immigrants' Home	76
Orphan asylums	3
Blind Asylum	2
Hospitals for the insane	225
Female refuges	11†
Industrial and reformatory schools	7
Gaols	33
Penal establishments	5
Total	2,084

Vaccinations.

57. The number of cases of successful vaccination in 1879 was 22,100; and, as the number of births was 26,839, it appears that 82 per cent. of the children born were vaccinated. Part of the remainder are accounted for by death. 1,669, or 6 per cent. of those born, having died before they were three months old, and 2,305, or $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., before they were six months old. The

* This includes the deaths of 47 children born in the institution.

† This includes the deaths of 8 children of inmates.

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vaccinations amounted in 1878 to 82 per cent. of the births, in 1877 to 87 per cent., in 1876 to 80 per cent., in 1875 to 82 per cent., in 1874 to 83 per cent., and in 1873 to something less than 80 per cent.

Public finance accounts.

58. As there are two kinds of governing bodies in Victoria—the General and Local Government—there are likewise two public finance accounts. In the following paragraphs these are, in the first instance, kept distinct; but as in dealing with questions affecting the total amounts raised and expended, it is necessary to take both accounts into consideration, they are subsequently dealt with in a combined form. It has been too often the custom in making statements respecting the finances of a country to take no account of local revenue, taxation, and expenditure. It will, however, be at once obvious that these elements cannot be ignored except at the expense of accuracy. Taxation for local purposes forms part of the burdens of a people just as much as that for general services; moreover, in some countries certain functions are performed by the one Government which in other countries are performed by the other. It should be further pointed out that in comparing the amounts raised in the same country in different years, allowance should be made for changes arising from transfers of portion of the revenue of the general government to local bodies, and *vice versâ*; also for the abandonment of revenue for special public purposes which it is considered desirable to carry on by means of trusts, &c., and of the resumption of such revenue, should these be abolished. Of trusts in operation by which revenue has been affected, there is only one in Victoria, viz., the Melbourne Harbour Trust, which for the sake of convenience has been treated as a local body.

Changes effected by Legislation.

59. No important changes affecting the sources of revenue were made during the year 1878–9. It should be noted, however, that in that year, chiefly in consequence of arrears for 1877–8 being included, an amount of 202,000*l.* was received under the head of "land tax," as against only 50,000*l.* in the previous year; also that an average of about 70 additional miles of railway were open for traffic.

Finance account, 1878–9.

60. Although the financial year ended on the 30th June 1879 commenced with a credit balance of 77,000*l.*, that sum was insufficient to meet the deficiency on the year's transactions (viz., 212,000*l.*), and it became necessary to carry forward to the ensuing year a debit balance of 135,000*l.* The exact figures are as follows:—

Finance Account, 1878–9.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Net receipts - - - -	4,621,519	14	3
Net expenditure - - -	4,833,378	13	3
Expenditure in excess of receipts -	211,858	19	0
Credit balance of 1877–8 brought forward	76,951	14	4
Debit balance to carry forward to 1879–80	134,907	4	8

Recoups.

61. During the year under review the sum of 69,201*l.* was recouped to the revenue on account of moneys expended in previous years, whilst on the other hand 3,000*l.* of the expenditure was left to be recouped to the revenue at a future period. Such amounts as these do not properly belong to the transactions of the year, but it has always been customary to include them therewith.

Excess of receipts and contrary.

62. In only one year of the last six were the net receipts in excess of the net expenditure. The following figures show the surplus or deficiency in each of those years, the advances to be recouped from loans, and the recoups, being left out of the account:—

—	Receipts in Excess of Expenditure.	Expenditure in Exces of Receipts.
	£	£
1873–4 - -	—	80,485
1874–5 - -	—	126,949
1875–6 - -	—	84,131
1876–7 - -	173,819	—
1877–8 - -	—	63,691
1878–9 - -	—	278,060

Revenue and expenditure, 1878–9, and former years.

63. Inclusive of recoups, the revenue of 1878–9 was greater than that of 1877–8 by 117,107*l.*, but less than that of 1876–7 by 102,357*l.* If recoups be excluded, the revenue of 1878–9 will appear as the largest which up to that period had ever been raised in Victoria, being greater by 23,360*l.*, than that of 1876–7. It must, however, be remembered that the revenue of 1878–9 was swelled by arrears of land tax as has been already stated, and if these, amounting to about 75,000*l.*, be excluded as well as the recoups, the revenue would be 28,000*l.*, less than that received in the previous year. The expenditure of 1878–9 was greater than that of 1877–8 by 262,275*l.*, if expenditure of amounts to be recouped be excluded, and by 199,030*l.*, if they be included, and was in either case by far the largest amount that had ever been expended in the Colony in one year.

Revenue and expenditure per head in various years.

64. The revenue per head in 1878–9 was 5*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, which was less than in 1876–7, and about equal to that of 1875–6, but was greater than in any other year since 1862. The expenditure per head in the year under review was 5*l.* 10*s.* 0¾*d.*, which was exceeded in 1875–6, but was not equalled in any other year since 1862.

Heads of revenue.

65. The following are the heads of revenue in Victoria for the last two financial years, and the amounts received under each head.

Heads of Revenue, 1877-8 *and* 1878-9.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.	
	1877-8.	1878-9.
	£	£
Customs	1,487,448	1,378,384
Excise	36,309	36,088
Ports and harbours	22,647	20,310
Licenses (business)	17,150	20,116
Duties on estates of deceased persons	72,500	47,983
„ on bank notes	26,672	24,956
Land tax	50,227	202,251*
Mint, charges	7,247	7,906
„ subsidy returned	447	6,624
Land sales (including rents counting towards purchase money)	756,674	802,254
Rents of Crown lands (not counting towards purchase money)	186,337	163, 207
Penalties under Land Acts	14,704	3,774
Railways	1,202,280	1,222,241
Water supply	104,819	115,287
Public works (exclusive of railway and water supply)	5,190	5,879
Post and telegraphs	258,003	276,803
Fines, fees, and forfeitures (exclusive of Land Act penalties)	119,632	113,177
Rents (ordinary)	824	935
Reimbursements in aid	36,894	28,757
Interest and exchange	78,080	47,340
Recoups from Loans	—	69,201
Miscellaneous receipts	20,329	28,047
Total	4,504,413	4,621,520

Heads of expenditure.

66. The following are the heads of expenditure during the last two financial years, and the amounts expended under each head.

Heads of Expenditure, 1877-8 *and* 1878-9.

Heads of Expenditure.	Amounts expended.	
	1877-8.	1878-9.
	£	£
Legislature	64,040	59,212
Civil establishment†	101,175	101,451
Judicial and legal	171,065	172,056
Public instruction, science, &c.	519,175	569,673
Charitable institutions, medical, &c.	281,509	277,016

* Including arrears of 1877-8.

† Including cost of the following departments: Chief Secretary, Government Statist, Short-hand Writer, Agent-General, Audit office, Registrar of Friendly Societies, Inspector of Stock, Treasury, Stores and Transport, and Government Printer.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.	
	1877–8.	1878–9.
	£	£
Mining	28,530	52,382
Police	207,119	209,041
Gaols and penal establishments	58,132	58,442
Mint*	20,000	20,000
Crown lands and survey	150,248	149,976
Railways	616,207	662,178
Water supply	22,621	28,501
Public works	562,505	586,401
Customs	64,058	59,467
Harbours and lights	29,017	28,876
Defences	121,266	118,122
Post and telegraphs	376,091	387,104
Retiring allowances, and pensions	33,957	43,904
Gratuities, compensation, &c.	49,728	45,804
Interest	920,911	918,540
Civil list	29,564	29,636
Aborigines	7,464	10,499
Placed to railway loan liquidation and construction account	100,000	200,000
Amounts to be recouped	66,245	3,000
Miscellaneous services	33,722	42,098
Total	4,634,349	4,833,379

Land revenue and Victoria and other Australian Colonies.

67. The revenue derived from crown lands in Victoria amounted to 965,461*l.*, which is equivalent to over a fifth of the total revenue of Victoria, 802,254*l.* being for alienation in fee simple and 163,207*l.* for temporary occupation. In New South Wales nearly half, in New Zealand considerably more than a third, and in South Australia nearly a third of the revenue is derived from crown lands, whilst in Western Australia the proportion is about a fifth, and in Tasmania as low as an eighth. As nearly the whole of the land revenue in Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia, and much more than half in Queensland, is received for alienation in fee simple, it is evident that in the course of a few years the rapid diminution of the public estate in these Colonies will necessitate either a resort to other modes of sustaining the revenue or to a considerable reduction in the expenditure.

Taxation.

68. The amounts of which revenue is made up are of two classes, viz., those raised by taxation and those raised otherwise. In Victoria the former class consisted in 1878–9 of customs and excise duties, wharfage rates, port and harbour dues, business licenses, duties on bank notes, duties on estates of deceased persons, and a land tax. The latter class comprised amounts derived

* The annual subsidy to the Mint is 20,000*l.*, portion of this sum, however, has been repaid each year to the revenue. See table of revenue, under the head Mint subsidy returned.

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from the sale or occupation of Crown lands, from railways, water supply, and other public works, from post and telegraph offices, from fees, fines, and forfeitures, from the labour of prisoners, from the interest on the public account, &c. The following figures show the result of a division of the Victorian revenue upon this principle:—

Taxation, 1878–9.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue raised by taxation -	1,730,087	18	8
,, otherwise -	2,891,431	15	7
Total - - -	4,621,519	14	3

Land tax.

69. The act for imposing a land tax came into operation on the 28th August 1877. It provides that all estates over 640 acres in extent, valued at upwards of 2,500*l.*, whether consisting of one block or several blocks of land not more than five miles apart, shall be taxed at the rate of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. upon their capital value after deducting therefrom the sum of 2,500*l.* For the purpose of ascertaining their capital value, the estates in question are divided into four classes, their value being estimated according to the number of sheep they are able to carry, as follows:—

		Value per Acre.
Class I.	Carrying 2 or more sheep per acre -	4
Class II.	,, 3 sheep to 2 acres - -	3
Class III.	,, 1 sheep per acre - -	2
Class IV.	,, under 1 sheep per acre -	1

assesnt of land Extesed for land tax.

70. The extent of land assessed under this Act amounted in 1879 to nearly seven million acres, nearly half of which was placed in the lowest class, more than a third in the third class, less than an eighth in the second class, and not quite a twentieth in the first class.

Proportion of revenue raised by taxation.

71. The proportion raised by taxation in 1878–9 amounted to 37 per cent. of the total revenue, as compared with 38 per cent. in 1877–8, and $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1876–7.

Taxation per head.

72. The amount raised by taxation divided by the estimated mean population of the financial year gives an average of 1*l.* 19*s.* $4\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to each individual, as against 1*l.* 19*s.* $10\frac{1}{2}$*d.* in the previous year.

Municipal revenue and expenditure.

73. The following table gives a statement of the revenue of expenditure of municipalities in the year 1879, the amounts raised

and expended in cities, towns, and boroughs being shown separately from those in shires:—

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure, 1879.

—	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs,	Shires.	Total.
Revenue.	£	£	£
From government - - -	69,100	359,707	428,807*
„ rates - - - -	208,289	190,013	398,302
„ licenses - - - -	66,627	31,814	98,441
„ registration of dogs and goats -	5,326	5,195	10,521
„ market dues - - -	31,792	304	32,096
„ other sources - - -	66,578	18,743	85,321
Total - -	447,712	605,776	1,053,488
Expenditure.			
Public works - - - -	270,545	382,733	653,278
Salaries, &c. - - - -	42,717	63,202	105,919
Other expenditure - - -	184,443	68,643	253,086
Total - -	497,705	514,578	1,012,283

Endowment to municipalities.

74. Municipalities receive an endowment from the State amounting to 310,000*l.* per annum, which is the maximum sum provided for by the Local Government Act, 1874.

Salaries in municipalities.

75. Payments for salaries formed about 9 per cent. of the expenditure of cities, towns, and boroughs in 1878, and 8½ per cent. in 1879. The same item formed 12 per cent. of the expenditure of shires in both years.

General and local revenue and expenditure.

76. A statement of the revenue and expenditure of the general government, added to those of the municipal government and to those of the Melbourne Harbour Trust during the last two years, will be found in the following table. From the totals of municipal revenue and expenditure the amounts granted by the State have been deducted.

* This amount differs from that named in the next paragraph, the reason being that the financial year of the municipalities terminates in September, whilst that of the general government ends in June.

General and Local Revenue and Expenditure, 1878 *and* 1879.

	Total Amounts received and expended.	
	1878.	1879.
Revenue.	£	£
General government - -	4,504,413	4,621,520
Municipal government - -	639,428	624,681
Melbourne Harbour Trust - -	86,746	78,517
Total - -	5,230,587	5,324,718
Expenditure.		
General government - -	4,634,349	4,833,379
Municipal government - -	713,503	583,476
Melbourne Harbour Trust - -	92,136	93,849
Total - -	5,439,988	5,510,704

General and local revenue and expenditure per head.

77. The next table gives the general and local revenue and expenditure per head in the same two years. It will be observed that in the last year named the local revenue, embracing that of the municipal bodies and that of the harbour trust, amounted to 16*s.* per head, and the general and local revenue combined to over 6*l.* per head.

General and Local Revenue and Expenditure per Head, 1878 *and* 1879.

	Amounts received and expended per Head.	
	1878.	1879.
Revenue.	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
General government - -	5 4 10	5 5 $2\frac{3}{4}$
Municipal government - -	0 14 $10\frac{1}{2}$	0 14 $2\frac{3}{4}$
Melbourne Harbour Trust - -	0 2 $0\frac{1}{4}$	0 1 $9\frac{1}{2}$
Total - -	6 1 9	6 1 3
Expenditure.		
General government - -	5 7 $10\frac{1}{2}$	5 10 $0\frac{3}{4}$
Municipal government - -	0 16 $7\frac{1}{4}$	0 13 $3\frac{1}{2}$
Melbourne Harbour Trust - -	0 2 $1\frac{3}{4}$	0 2 $1\frac{3}{4}$
Total - -	6 6 $7\frac{1}{2}$	6 5 6

General and local taxation.

78. The amount of taxation under the general and municipal governments and under the Melbourne Harbour Trust is given in the following table for the same years, the items being specified in each case. The principle upon which the items of taxation are separated from the general revenue has been already explained. The local taxation is separated from the municipal revenue by

rejecting—besides all grants received from the general government—rents of buildings and land, proceeds of the letting of halls, &c., the balance being considered as taxation. The taxation levied by the Harbour Trust consists only of wharfage rates:—

General and Local Taxation, 1878 *and* 1879.

Heads of Taxation.	Amount received.	
	1878.	1879.
General Government Taxation.	£	£
Customs duties	1,459,628	1,351,864
Wharfage rates	27,820	26,520
Ports and harbours	22,647	20,310
Spirits distilled in Victoria	36,309	36,088
Licenses (not territorial)	17,150	20,116
Duties on estates of deceased persons	72,500	47,983
Duties on bank notes	26,672	24,956
Land tax	50,227	202,251
Total	1,712,953	1,730,088
Municipal Government Taxation.		
Rates	401,208	398,303
Toll receipts	13,895	—
Licenses	102,732	98,441
Registration of dogs and goats	10,293	10,521
Market dues	32,776	32,095
Total	560,904	539,360
Melbourne Harbour Trust Taxation.		
Wharfage rates	84,731	75,295
Total general and local taxation	2,358,588	2,344,743

79. The aggregate amounts raised from the general and local taxation represented in 1878 a proportion of 2*l.* 14*s.* 10¾*d.*, and in 1879 a proportion of 2*l.* 13*s.* 4¾*d.* General and local taxation per head.

80. The greater portion of the general government taxation is derived from customs duties, but the proportion from that source decreased from 81 per cent. in 1877–8, to 78 per cent. in the year under review. Seventy-four per cent. of the municipal government taxation in 1879, as against 71 in the previous year, was derived from rates. Chief sources of taxation.

81. The public debt of Victoria amounted on the 30th June 1879 to 20,048,222*l.*, and consisted of— Public debt.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Debentures	19,450,220	0	0
Stock	598,001	19	7
Total	20,048,221	19	7

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Repayment of debentures.

82. The debentures are repayable at the following dates and places:—

Repayment of Debentures.

When repayable.	Amount repayable.		
	In Melbourne.	In London.	Total.
	£	£	£
1st October 1883 - -	236,600	3,587,500	3,824,100
„ 1884 - -	—	812,500	812,500
„ 1885 - -	580,620	2,600,000	3,180,620
„ 1888 - -	130,000	—	130,000
„ 1889 - -	276,100	—	276,100
1st January 1891 - -	—	850,000	850,000
„ 1894 - -	312,900	2,107,000	2,419,900
1st July 1899 - -	—	1,500,000	1,500,000
„ 1901 - -	—	3,000,000	3,000,000
1st January 1904 - -	—	3,457,000	3,457,000
Total - -	1,536,220	17,914,000	19,450,220

Purposes for which loans were incurred.

83. The public debt was incurred for the following purposes:—

	£	s.	d.
Railways - - - -	17,726,496	11	1
Water supply - - - -	3,323,307	0	0
Defences - - - -	100,000	0	0
Public works and buildings - -	586,296	8	11
State schools - - - -	800,000	0	0
Alfred Graving Dock - - -	350,000	0	0
Melbourne and Geelong improvements -	735,000	0	0
To make good deficiency on sale of stock	62,000	0	0
	23,683,100	0	0

	£	s.	d.			
Deduct debentures unsold - -	2,000,000	0	0			
Deduct stock unsold	44,879	18	5			
Deduct amounts repaid - -	1,603,100	0	0			
				3,647,979	18	5
				20,035,120	1	7
Increase by bonus on conversion of 5 and 6 per cent. debentures into 4 per cent. stock - - - -				13,101	18	0
Total -				20,048,221	19	7

84. The following are the rates of interest payable on the various amounts of which the debt is composed : — Rates of interest.

	£	s.	d.
6 per cent. - -	9,073,320	0	0
5 per cent. - -	2,419,900	0	0
4½ per cent. - -	3,000,000	0	0
4 per cent. - -	5,555,001	19	7
Total - -	20,048,221	19	7

85. On the 30th June 1879 the estimated population of Victoria was 887,434. If the amount of debt at the same period (20,048,222*l.*) be divided by this number, the proportionate indebtedness of each man, woman, and child in the Colony will be shown to have been 22*l.* 11*s.* 9¾*d.* Indebtedness per head.

86. A loan of 3,000,000*l.*, bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, being the first instalment of 5,000,000*l.* authorised to be borrowed under Act 42 Vict., No. 608, was floated in London on the 13th March 1879, at an average price of 99*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* for 100*l.* debenture, the accrued interest at the time of floating the loan being 1*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* per 100*l.* The total proceeds of the sale of debentures was 2,972,427*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.* The increase of public debt from all sources during the year ended on the 30th June 1879 was 3,026,157*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, and the average increase per head was 2*l.* 19*s.* 5¼*d.* Increase of debt, 1878–9.

87. The interest paid on the public debt, viz., 884,570*l.*, represented a charge of 1*l.* 0*s.* 1¾*d.* per head of the mean population in 1878–9, as against a charge of 1*l.* 0*s.* 7¾*d.* per head in 1877–8. Interest on debt per head.

88. The expenses connected with the public debt consisted chiefly of premium on remittances to London and commission, viz., ½ per cent. on interest payable thereat amounted to 7,601*l.* in 1878–9, as against 11,725*l.* in the previous year. Expenses of debt.

89. Since the separation of Victoria from New South Wales upwards of two millions sterling have been expended on the introduction of immigrants from the United Kingdom. Of late years, however, it has not been the policy of the State to devote much money to this object, and in 1878–9 the amount so expended was only 342*l.* Expenditure on immigration.

90. During the last 29 years 36,500,000*l.* sterling have been expended by the general government on public works, including railways, roads, and bridges, Melbourne and country water supply, and other works and buildings. Of this amount over a million and a half was spent in 1879. The whole is exclusive of the sums expended by local bodies on public works, roads, &c., on the construction and maintenance of the suburban lines of railway both before and since their purchase by the Government, and on the Port of Melbourne since the 1st January Expenditure on public works.

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1877. The following table gives the amounts expended by the State prior to and during 1879:—

Government Expenditure on Public Works.

Public Works.	Amount expended.		
	Prior to 1879.	During 1879.	Total.
	£	£	£
Victorian railways - -	16,677,323	1,061,693	17,739,016
Roads and bridges - -	6,869,155	36,884	6,906,039
Melbourne water supply (Yan Yean) - - -	1,524,358	40,065	1,564,423
Other waterworks - -	1,774,744	9,581	1,784,325
Other public works - -	8,164,937	356,547	8,521,484
Total - - -	35,010,517	1,504,770	36,515,287

Land forces.

91. The land forces of Victoria embrace a paid artillery corps and the various volunteer corps, consisting of the cavalry, artillery, rifle, engineer, torpedo, and signal arms of the service. The following was the total strength of the land forces at the end of 1879:—

Strength of Land Forces, 1879.

Officers - - -	211
Sergeants - - -	228
Rank and file - - -	2,948
Total - - -	3,387

Naval forces.

92. The Victorian naval forces consist of the warships "Cerberus" and "Nelson," and the steam sloop "Victoria"; of a naval reserve, the men of which receive a small fee as a retainer; and of Torpedo corps. The "Nelson" was recently cut down into a frigate and a heavier armament was procured for her.

Strength of naval forces.

93. The strength of naval forces at the end of 1879 were as follows:—

Strength of Naval Forces, 1879.

Officers - - - -	28
Petty Officers and seamen -	402
Boys - - - -	18
Total - -	448

Expenditure on defences.

94. The expenditure on defences during the last 25½ years amounted to nearly 2,500,000*l.* sterling, of which 118,122*l.* was spent in 1878–9.

95. The following is a statement of the pensions and retiring allowances of all descriptions payable out of the general revenue during the year 1878–9 :— Statement of retiring allowances.

Summary of Pensions and Retiring Allowances payable from the Revenue, 1878–9.

Description of Recipient.	Retiring Allowances.	
	Number.	Total Amount payable.
		£
Former ministers of the Crown - -	2	1,867
Lady Darling and Mrs. Petrie* - -	2	1,100
Former Judge of Supreme Court -	1	1,500
„ Judges of county courts -	3	2,067
„ Surveyor-General - -	1	1,000
„ Officers of the Civil Service -	174	23,527
„ „ „ Lunacy Department	8	167
Allowances voted by Parliament -	90	9,153
	281	40,381
Payable to the Police Superannuation Fund - - - - - -	—	2,000
Total - -	281	42,381

96. A branch of the Royal Mint was established in Melbourne in 1872. From the time of its opening to the end of 1879, 3,385,655 ounces of gold were received thereat, valued at 13,495,328*l.*; of this amount 656,556 oz., valued at 2,637,738*l.*, was received in 1879. Royal Mint.

97. There were 11 banks of issue in Victoria during 1879 possessing therein 314 branches or agencies. The average rates of exchange for bank bills drawn on the following places in 1879 were as follows :— Number of banks and rates of exchange.

Rates of Exchange, 1879.

Places on which Bills were drawn.	Average Rates of Exchange.
London - - - - -	$\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. premium.
British India - - - -	5 per cent. premium and nominal.
New South Wales - - -	$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. premium.
Queensland - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. premium.
South Australia - - -	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium.
Tasmania - - - -	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium.
New Zealand - - - -	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium.

* Lady Darling is the widow of a former Governor of Victoria. Mrs. Petrie is the daughter of Captain Flinders, an eminent explorer of the Australian coasts.

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Liabilities, assets, &c. of banks.

98. The position of the banks as regards liabilities, assets, capital, and profits, according to the sworn returns for the last quarter of the same year, was as follows :—

Position of Banks, 1879.

Liabilities.

	£
Notes in circulation - - -	1,090,760
Bills in circulation - - -	53,957
Balances due to other banks - -	247,343
Deposits not bearing interest - -	4,187,452
Deposits bearing interest - -	12,238,713
Total -	17,818,225

Assets.

	£
Coined gold, silver, and other metals -	3,154,566
Gold and silver in bullion and bars -	320,779
Landed property - - - -	847,389
Notes and bills of other banks - -	113,373
Balances due from other banks - -	185,986
Debts due to the banks* - - -	20,717,750
Total -	25,339,843

Capital and Profits.

	£
Capital stock paid up - - -	9,026,250
Average per annum of rates of last dividend declared by banks - -	$10\frac{1}{22}$ per cent.
Average rate of interest per annum paid to shareholders - - -	10·698 per cent.
Amount of last dividend declared -	482,800
Amount of reserved profts after declaring dividend - - - -	2,698,097

Rates of interest on bank deposits.

99. The rates on deposits left for a period of 12 months with the Victorian banks ranged in 1879 from 6 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Savings banks.

100. Two kinds of savings banks exist in Victoria, the ordinary savings banks, which were first established in 1842, and the post office savings banks, which were established in 1865. The rate of interest allowed is 4 per cent. The following figures shows the number of institutions, the number of depositors having ac-

* Including notes, bills of exchange, and all stock and funded debts of every description, except notes, bills and balances due to the banks from other banks.

counts at the last date of balancing in 1879, and the total and average amount of depositors' balances at such dates:—

Savings Bank, 1879.

Description of Institution.	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Depositors' Balances.	
			Total Amount.	Average per Depositor.
			£	£ s. d.
Post office savings banks	185	49,233	650,101	13 4 1
Ordinary savings banks	11	33,708	870,195	25 16 4
Total -	196	82,941	1,520,296	18 6 7

Building societies.

101. Fifty-six building societies sent in returns of their operations during 1879. The following are the principal items furnished. It should be observed that the returns of some of the societies were not perfect:

Building Societies, 1879.

Number of societies - - -	56
Number of members - - -	19,053
	£
Amount advanced during the year -	489,312
Income during the year - - -	1,068,116
Working expenses during the year -	31,321
Assets at date of balancing - -	2,914,077
Liabilities do. - - -	2,345,995
Moneys on deposit at date of balancing -	742,542

Rates of interest in building societies.

102. The rates of interest allowed in 1879 by building societies on moneys left with them for a period of 12 months generally ranged from 6 to 8 per cent.

Total moneys on deposit.

103. The following is a statement of the total amount of moneys on deposit at or about the end of each of the two last years, with banks of issue, savings banks, and building societies. Other institutions, such as deposit banks, and some of the insurance companies, also receive deposits, but of these no returns are furnished:—

Moneys on Deposit at end of Years 1878 *and* 1879.

—	1878.	1879.
	£	£
Amount deposited with—		
Banks - - - -	16,106,581	16,326,165
Savings banks - -	1,510,273	1,520,296
Building societies - -	703,463	742,542
Total - -	18,320,317	18,589,003

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Municipalities.

104. Municipal bodies in Victoria are of two kinds, the first being called cities, towns, and boroughs, and the second shires. The total area included in both descriptions is as follows:—

Estimated Area embraced in Municipalities.

	Square Miles.
Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	- 347
Shires - - - - -	79,001
Total - -	79,348

Population of municipalities.

105. The estimated population of the two kinds of districts was as follows in 1879:—

Estimated Population of Municipalities.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	419,534
Shires - - - - -	441,383
Total - - -	860,917

Proportion of population of Victoria.

106. The estimated mean population of Victoria during 1879 was 888,500. It therefore follows that during that year $\frac{32}{33}$rds. of the inhabitants of the Colony enjoyed the advantages of local self government.

Ratepayers in municipalities.

107. The ratepayers in the two kinds of municipal districts numbered as follow in 1879:—

Ratepayers in Municipalities.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	- 93,889
Shires - - - - -	98,128
Total - -	- 192,017

Proportion of ratepayers to population.

108. By comparing these figures, with those showing the estimated municipal population, it appears that about one person in every 4·5 persons living in municipalities is a ratepayer.

Dwellings in municipalities.

109. The following is a statement of the number of dwellings in the two kinds of municipal districts:—

Dwellings in Municipalities.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	- 90,529
Shires - - - - -	95,184
Total - -	- 185,713

Increase in number of dwellings.

110. The dwellings in the Colony have not been enumerated since 1871. At that time the number of all descriptions amounted to 158,481. The houses in municipal districts, therefore, now exceed by 27,232 the whole number returned at the last census.

Rating in municipalities.

111. Of the cities, towns, and boroughs, 44 per cent. in 1878 and 37 per cent. in 1879 were rated at 1*s.* in the pound; of the shires, 85 per cent. in 1878 and 89 per cent. in 1879 were rated at that amount. In 1878 and 1879, five municipal districts were rated at less than 1*s.* in the pound; 45 in the former and in 44

the latter year were rated at over that amount. The highest rating allowed by law is 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.

Number and value of rateable properties.

112. The total number of properties rated in municipalities during 1879 was over 217,000 of which the total value amounted to over 83,000.000*l.*, and the annual value to over 7,000,000*l.* sterling. The following is a classification of the properties according to their values :—

Number and Value of Properties rated, 1879.

Classification of Properties rated.	Properties rated.		
	Number.	Value.	
		Total.	Annual.
		£	£
Under 50*l.* - - -	188,444	35,747,601	3,099,634
50*l.* to 100*l.* - - -	19,313	14,613,971	1,264,672
100*l* to 200*l.* - - -	6,217	9,349,834	814,682
200*l.* to 300*l.* - - -	1,509	23,532,710	1,962,561
300*l.* to 400*l.* - - -	627		
400*l.* to 500*l.* - - -	304		
500*l.* and upwards - -	959		
Total - - -	217,373	83,244,116	7,141,549

Naturalization.

113. Letters of naturalization are granted to aliens residing in Victoria upon their taking an oath of allegiance to Her Majesty ; but without becoming naturalized alien friends resident in the Colony may acquire real and personal property, and may convey, devise, and bequeath it in the same manner as if they had been British subjects by birth. Alien women married to British subjects thereby become naturalized. The following table shows the native countries of those who have obtained letters of naturalization during the year 1879 and the previous 10 years. It will be observed that more than half were Germans :—

Naturalization, 1869 *to* 1879.

Native Countries.	Ten years: 1869–78.	Year 1879.
France - - - -	34	1
Belgium - - - -	5	—
Holland - - - -	9	1
Austria - - - -	13	1
Germany - - - -	517	29
Italy - - - -	21	3
Spain - - - -	4	—
Portugal - - - -	3	
Russia - - - -	9	—
Other European countries - -	229	15
United States - - -	12	1
South and Central American States	1	—
China - - - -	35	7
Other countries - - -	6	—
Total - - -	898	58

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Members and electors of Legislative Council and Assembly.

114. The Parliament of Victoria is composed of two elective Houses, viz., the Legislative Council, consisting of 30 members elected for 10 years, six of whom retire every two years in rotation but are eligible for re-election, and the Legislative Assembly, consisting of 86 members elected for three years. Universal manhood suffrage prevails as far as regards the latter, but an elector for the former must be either the occupier or owner of property rated at not less than 50*l.* a year, a matriculated student at the Melbourne University, a graduate of some University, a member of the learned professions, a certificated teacher, or a military or naval officer.

Electors on the rolls.

115. The number of electors on the rolls of both Houses at the end of April 1880 is shown in the following table. According to the latest available returns 45½ per cent. of the electors for the Council recorded their votes, and 66½ per cent. of those for the Assembly recorded theirs:—

Electors on the Rolls, 1880.

Description of Roll.	Legislative Council.	Legislative Assembly.
Ratepayers - - -	30,694	160,359
General - - - -	2,078	40,342
Total - - -	32,772	200,701

Proportion of non-ratepaying electors.

116. The non-ratepaying electors on the rolls of the Legislative Council amounted to 6⅓ per cent of the whole, whilst the non-ratepaying electors on the rolls of the Legislative Assembly amounted to as much as 20 per cent.

Proportion of electors and members to population.

117. At the time of the general election in February 1880 two in every nine persons in the Colony were electors, and two out of every 25 in the Colony recorded their votes. The proportion of members to the total population was one to every 10,457.

Imports, exports, and trade, 1879.

118. The total declared value of the imports having been 15,035,538*l.*, and that of the exports 12,454,170*l.* The excess of imports over exports was 2,581,368*l.*, and the total value of external trade was 27,489,708*l.*

Imports and exports, 1878 and 1879, compared.

119. The value of imports in 1879 was less than that in 1878 by 1,126,342*l.* The value of exports in 1879 was less than the value in 1878 by 2,471,537*l.*

Imports and exports, 1879 and former years.

120. In 1879, as indicated by the value, the imports were lower than in any other year since 1872; the exports were lower than in any other year since 1854.

Imports and exports per head of population.

121. By comparing the value of the imports and exports with the population, the relative smallness of the external trade 1879 is even more readily observed than by means of the gross amounts. According to this standard, as applied to all the years since Victoria became an independent Colony, the imports were lower than in any other year except 1871 and 1851, the exports were absolutely the lowest in the whole period of 29 years, and the sum

of the two combined was lower than in any year since 1851. The following are the figures :—

Imports and Exports per Head, 1851 to 1879.

Year.	Value per Head of the Population of		
	Imports.	Exports.	Both.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851 - -	12 3 4	16 7 9	28 11 1
1852 - -	30 12 5	56 1 4	86 13 9
1853 - -	81 1 9	56 12 4	137 14 1
1854 - -	66 0 11	44 0 10	110 1 9
1855 - -	35 9 10	39 17 8	75 7 6
1856 - -	39 5 6	40 13 3	79 18 9
1857 - -	40 2 0	35 0 10	75 2 10
1858 - -	31 4 6	28 18 3	60 2 9
1859 - -	30 4 1	26 16 3	57 0 4
1860 - -	27 19 8	24 0 8	52 0 4
1861 - -	25 0 3	25 11 3	50 11 6
1862 - -	24 11 10	23 15 6	48 7 4
1863 - -	25 3 0	24 3 4	49 6 4
1864 - -	25 8 4	23 11 10	49 0 2
1865 - -	21 10 2	21 6 8	42 16 10
1866 - -	23 5 11	20 6 7	43 12 6
1867 - -	17 19 4	19 11 8	37 11 0
1868 - -	19 16 11	23 4 8	43 1 7
1869 - -	19 19 2	19 6 5	39 5 7
1870 - -	17 10 11	17 11 4	35 2 3
1871 - -	16 14 2	19 14 2	36 8 4
1872 - -	17 19 10	18 4 7	36 4 5
1873 - -	21 3 9	19 12 2	40 15 11
1874 - -	21 4 7	19 6 8	40 11 3
1875 - -	20 9 6	18 2 4	38 11 10
1876 - -	18 18 1	17 1 10	35 19 11
1877 - -	19 5 1	17 16 8	37 1 9
1878 - -	18 11 11	17 3 6	35 15 5
1879 - -	16 18 5	14 0 4	30 18 9

Imports and exports the produce of various countries.

122. The value of the imports into Victoria of articles entered as being the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, of other British Dominions, and of Foreign States, and the value of the exports from Victoria of articles entered as the produce or manufacture of the same countries, and of the Colony itself, also the per-centage of such values to the total value of imports and exports in 1879, will be found in the following table :—

Imports and Exports, the Produce of different Countries, 1879.

Articles the Produce or Manufacture of	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
Victoria - - -	—	—	8,069,857	64·80
The United Kingdom -	6,051,708	40·24	1,295,509	10·40
Other British Possessions -	6,712,074	44·65	2,404,580	19·31
Foreign States - -	2,271,756	15·11	684,224	5·49
Total - -	15,035,538	100·00	12,454,170	100·00

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Exports of Victorian produce.

123. It will be observed that nearly 65 per cent. of the exports were set down as the produce or manufacture of Victoria. This is a smaller proportion than that which prevailed in any other year since 1866, as will be seen by the following table, which gives the total value per head of articles of Victorian produce exported, and their proportion to the total exports in each of the 13 years ended with 1879:—

Exports of Victorian Produce, 1867 *to* 1879.

Year.	Exports of Articles produced or manufactured in Victoria.		
	Total Value.	Value per Head of the Population.	Per-centage of the Total Exports.
	£	£ s. d.	
1867 - -	9,972,333	15 6 11	78·37
1868 - -	11,697,893	17 8 6¾	75·02
1869 - -	9,539,816	13 13 9	70·85
1870 - -	9,103,323	12 16 5¾	73·00
1871 - -	11,151,622	15 1 10¾	76·60
1872 - -	10,758,658	14 2 9	77·56
1873 - -	11,876,707	15 4 4½	77·61
1874 - -	11,352,515	14 4 3¼	73·52
1875 - -	10,571,806	12 19 5	71·59
1876 - -	10,155,916	12 4 6¼	71·54
1877 - -	11,269,086	13 5 2¼	74·35
1878 - -	10,676,499	12 5 8½	71·53
1879 - -	8,069,857	9 1 7¾	64·80

Decrease of exports of Victorian products, 1879.

124. It will be observed that the total falling off in 1879 as compared with 1878 amounted to 2,606,642*l.* Upwards of 2⅓ millions of this is attributable to the diminution in the exports of Victorian wool and gold. The value of Victorian wool exported was 4,330,628*l.* in 1878 and 3,564,721*l.* in 1879, that of gold (including specie) was 3,785,510*l.* in the former and 2,210,177*l.* in the latter year. Nearly three-fourths of the total value of Victorian produce exported in 1879 was represented by these two articles.

Trade with various countries, 1879.

125. In 1879 two-fifths of the Victorian imports, according to value, were from, and nearly half of the exports were to, the United Kingdom. Two-fifths of the former and more than a third of the latter were conveyed between Victoria and the neighbouring Colonies, chiefly New South Wales. Over 17 per cent. of the exports were to countries grouped under the head of "Other British Possessions," the articles being chiefly gold and specie sent to Ceylon, intended generally, no doubt, for further shipment to the United Kingdom. The value of the imports from, and the exports to, the different countries, and the per-centage of such

values to the total imports and exports are given in the following table :—

Imports from and Exports to different Countries, 1879.

Countries.	Imports therefrom.		Exports thereto.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
The United Kingdom - -	6,069,405	40·37	5,901,351	47·38
New South Wales - -	4,494,386	29·89	1,977,138	15·81
Queensland - - -	26,137	·17	37,339	·29
South Australia - - -	193,967	1·29	636,244	5·11
Western Australia - -	10,752	·07	82,377	·66
Tasmania - - - -	304,097	2·03	536,925	4·41
New Zealand - - -	1,101,651	7·33	914,091	7·33
Other British possessions - -	1,467,272	9·76	2,121,663	17·04
The United States - -	484,876	3·22	169,003	1·35
Other Foreign States - -	882,995	5·87	78,039	·62
Total - -	15,035,538	100·00	12,454,170	100·00

Imports of Principal Articles, 1879.

126. The values of 59 of the principal articles imported in 1879 are given in the following table:— Imports of principal articles, 1879.

	£
Apparel and slops - - - -	282,298
Bags and sacks - - - -	181,269
Beer, cider, and perry - - -	193,498
Books - - - - -	193,235
Boots and shoes - - - -	179,830
Butter and cheese - - - -	8,488
Candles - - - - -	35,845
Carpeting and druggeting - - -	43,214
Coal - - - - -	354,924
Coffee - - - - -	46,830
Cottons - - - - -	534,124
Cutlery - - - - -	20,298
Drugs and chemicals - - -	62,237
Earthenware, brownware, and chinaware -	61,103
Fancy goods - - - -	33,609
Fish - - - -	121,436
Flour and biscuit - - - -	3,734
Fruit (including currants and raisins) -	139,434
Furniture and upholstery - - -	36,161
Glass and glassware - - -	102,487
Gloves - - - - -	70,140
Gold (exclusive of specie) - - -	983,048
Grain, wheat - - - -	17,029

	£
Grain, oats	104,348
„ other (including rice)	459,169
Haberdashery	210,938
Hardware and ironmongery	97,940
Hats, caps, and bonnets	116,880
Hides, skins, and pelts	55,352
Hops	35,084
Hosiery	107,232
Iron and steel (exclusive of railway rails, &c.)	357,729
Jewellery	47,505
Leather, leatherware, and leather cloth	138,657
Linen piece goods	35,228
Live stock	890,126
Machinery	86,264
Matches and vestas	38,367
Meats, fresh, preserved, and salted	9,516
Musical instruments	56,968
Nails and screws	31,692
Oil	219,006
Oilmen's stores	15,649
Opium	68,806
Paints and colours	51,121
Paper (including paper bags)	179,624
Silks	200,996
Specie	261,417
Spirits	386,526
Stationery	69,339
Sugar and molasses	1,082,126
Tea	513,271
Timber	318,187
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff	177,792
Tools and utensils	31,476
Watches, clocks, and watchmakers' materials	54,075
Wine	91,600
Wool	2,494,573
Woollens and woollen piece goods	701,292
Total	13,500,142

127. The exports of 40 of the principal articles are in like manner given for the same year:—

Exports of principal articles, 1879.

Exports of Principal Articles, 1879.

	£
Antimony—ore, regulus, &c.	13,176
Apparel and slops	247,717
Bark	14,999
Bones and bonedust	7,991
Books	76,798
Boots and shoes	128,217
Butter and cheese	59,714
Candles	13,859
Coffee	28,577
Copper—ore, regulus, &c.	29,158
Flour and biscuit	140,124
Gold (exclusive of specie)	1,224,538
Grain, wheat	132,314
„ oats	12,172
„ other (including rice)	88,218
Hardware and ironmongery	69,750
Hay and chaff	15,695
Hides	20,217
Horns and hoofs	2,806
Leather and leatherware	241,766
Live stock	321,296
Machinery	75,640
Meats, fresh and preserved	84,231
„ salted	15,609
Oil	68,414
Potatoes	59,895
Soap	10,857
Skins and pelts	30,685
Specie, gold	1,352,883
„ silver	32,950
Spirits	118,254
Stationery	43,652
Sugar	230,314
Tallow	150,867
Tea	258,675
Tin, tin ore, and black sand	2,299
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff	152,871
Wine	47,935
Wool	5,269,634
Woollens and woollen piece goods	101,910
Total	10,996,677

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Customs revenue.

128. The customs revenue in 1879 was less than that in 1878 by 74,318*l.* This falling off was distributed over nearly all the heads. The following are the figures for the last two years:—

Customs Revenue, 1878 *and* 1879.

Heads of Revenue.	Year ended 31st December.	
	1878.	1879.
	£	£
Import duties	1,495,593	1,436,343
Export duty on red gum timber	216	—
Wharfage and harbour rates	6,735	6,336
Duties on spirits distilled in Victoria	36,630	24,426
Ports and harbours	21,455	19,706
Fees	6,808	6,892
Fines and forfeitures	432	238
Miscellaneous	9,623	9,233
Total	1,577,492	1,503,174

Taxation on imports.

129. The import duties received amounted to 9½ per cent. of the total value of imports in 1879, and to 9¼ per cent. in 1878.

Vessels inwards and outwards.

130. Partly, no doubt, owing to the increased number of large steamers trading to Melbourne, the tonnage of vessels entering and leaving Victorian ports was greater in 1879 than in any former year; but these seem to have to a certain extent supplanted smaller vessels, as the number of vessels was less than in any year since 1868. The following is a statement of the number, tonnage, and crews of vessels inwards and outwards during 1879:—

Vessels entered and cleared, 1879.

—	Number.	Tons.	Men.
Vessels entered	2,084	963,087	43,676
„ cleared	2,083	977,135	43,648
Total	4,167	1,940,222	—

Nationalities of vessels.

131. Of the vessels inwards and outwards during 1879, 82 per cent., embracing 59 per cent. of the tonnage, were Colonial; 13 per cent., embracing 34 per cent. of the tonnage, were British; and 5 per cent., embracing 7 per cent. of the tonnage, were foreign. Of the crews entering and leaving Victorian ports in 1879, 65 per cent. were attached to Colonial, 30 per cent. to British, and 5

per cent. to foreign vessels. The following are the figures from which these proportions have been derived:—

Nationality of Vessels entered and cleared, 1879.

Nationality.	Vessels entered.			Vessels cleared.		
	Number.	Tons.	Men.	Number.	Tons.	Men.
Colonial - -	1,710	573,972	28,339	1,703	577,973	28,579
British - -	276	323,176	13,232	287	335,193	13,045
Foreign - -	98	65,939	2,105	93	63,969	2,024
Total -	2,084	963,087	43,676	2,083	977,135	43,648

Postal returns.

132. The following figures show the number of post offices throughout the Colony, and the number of letters, packets, and newspapers which passed through them in the last two years. An increase is to be observed in the number of post offices and of letters, but a considerable decrease in the number of newspapers and packets:—

Postal Returns, 1878 *and* 1879.

Year.	Number of Post Offices.	Number despatched and received of			
		Letters.*	Newspapers.	Packets.	Total.
1878 -	1,007	22,324,931	10,697,331	3,210,296	36,232,558
1879 -	1,069	23,215,648	10,075,407	3,091,364	36,382,419
Increase -	62	890,717	—	—	149,861
Decrease -	—	—	621,924	118,932	—

Proportion of letters, &c. to population.

133. The letters, newspapers, and packets despatched and received were in the proportion of 4,169 in 1878, and of 4,088 in 1879, to every 100 of the population in those years.

Money orders.

134. Money order offices in Victoria in connexion with the post office had been established in 273 places up to the end of 1879. Besides the issue and payment of money orders at these places, such orders are issued in favour of Victoria, and Victorian orders are paid at places in Great Britain and Ireland, and in the various Australasian Colonies. The following is a comparative statement of the business in the last two years. An increase will

* Including post cards. These were first issued on the 1st April 1876. The number issued in 1879 was 851,214.

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be observed in all the items: chiefly in the number and amount of orders paid:—

Money Orders, 1878 *and* 1879.

Year.	Number of Money Order Offices.	Money Orders issued.		Money Orders paid.	
		Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
			£		£
1878 -	256	132,659	394,999	142,280	440,297
1879 -	273	138,517	398,019	150,525	453,723
Increase -	17	5,858	3,020	8,245	13,426

Average value of money orders.

135. The average amount for which money orders were issued during the two years named in the table was 2*l.* 18*s.* 5¾*d.*; the average amount for which money orders were paid was 3*l.* 1*s.* 0¾*d.*

Electric telegraphs.

136. Telegraphic communication exists in Victoria between 257 stations within her own borders. Her lines are connected besides with the lines of New South Wales, and, by means of them, with Queensland and New Zealand. They are also connected with the lines of South Australia, and, by their means, with the Eastern Archipelago, Asia, Europe, and America. They are likewise united with a submarine cable to Tasmania. The lines were extended during 1879 by 185 miles, and 332 miles of wire were added to that previously existing; but notwithstanding this a decrease occurred in the number of paid telegrams, and a corresponding diminution in the amount received. The number of stations, the length of lines and wire, and the amount of business done in the last two years are given in the following table:

Electric Telegraphs, 1878 *and* 1879.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of	
		Line (poles).	Wire.
1878 - - -	233	2,970	5,404
1879 - - -	257	3,155	5,736
Increase -	24	185	332

Year.	Number of Telegrams.			Amount Received.
	Paid.	Unpaid.	Total.	
				£
1878 - - -	767,395	236,259	1,003,654	60,288
1879 - - -	725,799	284,317	1,010,116	56,705
Increase - -	—	48,058	6,462	—
Decrease - -	41,596	—	—	3,583

The electric telegraphs are incorporated with the Post Office, therefore the expenditure accounts of the two departments are combined. The revenue accounts are, however, kept separate.

The following are the figures of revenue and expenditure in the last two years. A decrease will be observed in the revenue from telegraphs, but an increase in the postal revenue and total expenditure:—

Post and Telegraph Revenue and Expenditure, 1878 *and* 1879.

Year.	Gross Revenue of the			Gross Expenditure of the Post Office and Telegraphs.
	Post Office.	Electric Telegraphs.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1878 - - -	191,515	60,288	251,803	344,522
1879 - - -	197,675	56,705	254,380	351,854
Increase - -	6,160	—	2,577	7,332
Decrease - -	—	3,583	—	—

137. Since the purchase by the Government of the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Company's lines on the 1st July 1878 all the railways in Victoria have belonged to the State. The number of miles open at the end of 1879 was 1,125¼, consisting of 951 miles of single and 174¼ of double line. The lines are constructed upon a gauge of 5 feet 3 inches. The following are the names, lengths, and cost of construction of the different lines, and the distance travelled during 1879:— Railways: length, gauge, &c.

Railways.—Length, Cost, and Distance Travelled, 1879.

Names of Lines.	Length open on 31st December.			Cost of Construction.		Distrance travelled in the Year.
	Single Lines.	Double Lines.	Total.	Total.	Average per Mile.	
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	£	£	Miles.
NORTHERN SYSTEM.						
Main Line, Melbourne to Sandhurst -	—	100¾	100¾	5,111,253	50,732	
Main Line, Sandhurst to Echuca -	55¼	—	55¼	608,129	11,007	
Castlemaine and Dunolly Line -	47½	—	47½	285,765	6,016	
Ballarat and Maryborough Line -	42½	—	42½	253,454	5,964	1,290,223
Maryborough and Avoca Line -	15	—	15	60,136	4,009	
Sandhurst and Inglewood Line -	30	—	30	150,749	5,025	
Dunolly and St. Arnaud Line -	33	—	33	148,528	4,501	
Total Northern System - -	223¼	100¾	324	6,618,014	20,426	

Names of Lines.	Length open on 31st December.			Cost of Construction.		Distance travelled in the Year.
	Single Lines.	Double Lines.	Total.	Total.	Average per mile.	
WESTERN SYSTEM.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	£	£	Miles.
Williamstown Line -	—	6	6	412,885	68,814	
Geelong Line (including line to wharf)	37¼	1¾	39	1,053,846	27,022	
Ballarat Line	—	53½	53½	1,721,571	32,179	
Ballarat and Ararat Line - -	57	—	57	311,254	5,461	
Ararat and Stawell Line - -	18¾	—	18¾	111,851	5,965	
Ararat and Hamilton Line - -	66½	—	66½	306,722	4,612	
Geelong and Colac Line (including Racecourse Branch)	52½	—	52½	325,166	6,194	1,189,693
Portland and Hamilton Line (including line to Portland Wharf)	54	—	54	267,645	4,956	
Stawell and Horsham Line - -	53½	—	53½	222,633	4,161	
Geelong and Queenscliff - -	20¾	—	20¾	99,228	4,782	
Warrenheip and Gordon's - -	13	—	13	75,634	5,818	
Total Western System	373¼	61¼	434½	4,908,435	11,297	
NORTH-EASTERN SYSTEM.						
Essendon Line (including Racecourse Branch) - -	2¼	2½	4¾	77,174	16,247	
North-eastern Line -	182¼	—	182¼	1,560,848	8,564	
Wangaratta and Beechworth Line -	23	—	23	153,736	6,684	747,275
Springs and Wahgunyah - -	14	—	14	64,160	4,583	
Total North-eastern System - -	221½	2½	224	1,855,918	8,285	
EASTERN SYSTEM.						
Gippsland Line -	118¼	—	118¼	715,225	6,048	
South Yarra and Oakleigh - -	6¾	—	6¾	159,780	23,671	235,431
Spencer and Flinders Street Junction -	¾	—	¾	1,182	1,576	
Total Eastern System	125¾	—	125¾	876,187	6,968	
Suburban Lines (late Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Co.'s)	7¼	9¾	17	1,167,820	68,695	540,002
Grand Total -	951	174¼	1,125¼	15,426,374	13,709	4,002,624

138. The passenger rates per mile were as follow during 1879. The rates were somewhat higher on country than on suburban lines:— Passenger rates.

Passenger Rates (Single) per Mile, 1879.

	d.		d.
First-class country lines	2	Second-class country lines	1⅓
First-class suburban lines - -	1½	Second-class suburban lines - - -	1⅛

139. The following is a statement of the number of miles open and the number travelled, also of the passengers and goods carried during 1878 and 1879. It must be borne in mind that in both years only a portion of the extent set down as open was so during the whole year. A decrease will be observed in the quantity of goods carried, but a large increase in the other items:— Miles of railway open and travelled.

Railways.—Miles Open and Travelled, and Passengers and Goods Carried, 1878 and 1879.

Year.	Extent opened.	Distance travelled.	Passengers*.	Goods.
	Miles.	Miles.	No.	Tons.
1878 - -	1,052	3,271,007	8,004,646	1,188,835
1879 - - -	1,125	4,002,624	8,507,804	1,114,191
Increase - -	73	731,617	503,158	—
Decrease - -	—	—	—	74,644

140. The following were the railway receipts and working expenses during 1878 and 1879. A considerable falling off will be noticed in the receipts for passenger fares and freight, especially the latter, but a large increase in those under the head of sundries; the whole receipts, however, resulting in a net decrease of 8,051*l.*; whilst the working expenses on the contrary increased by 13,574*l.*, thus increasing the proportion of working expenses to receipts by over 1¼ per cent.:— Receipts and working expenses.

Railways.—Receipts and Working Expenses, 1878 and 1879.

Year.	Receipts.				Working Expenses.	Proportion of Working Expenses to Receipts.
	Passenger Fares.	Freight on Goods and Live Stock.	Sundries.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£	Per-centage.
1878 - - -	547,495	751,440	92,766	1,391,701	729,043	52·38
1879 - - -	535,112	671,307	177,231	1,383,650	42,617	53·67
Increase - -	—	—	84,465	—	13,574	1·29
Decrease - -	12,383	80,133	—	8,051	—	—

* Each description of passengers, whether single, return, or periodical, is reckoned only once. In 1879, 44,631 passengers on the suburban lines had monthly tickets 598 quarterly, 950 half-yearly, and 335 yearly tickets.

VICTORIA. Wages.

141. The following table contains a statement of the average rates of wages paid in Melbourne in 1879. The rates of wages in country districts are generally somewhat higher than those in the metropolis. Throughout Victoria the recognised working day for artisans and general labourers is eight hours :—

Wages in Melbourne, 1879.

Description of Labour.	Rate of Wages.
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.	
Farm labourers - - - per week, and found -	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Ploughmen - - - - „ „ -	15*s.* to 20*s*
Reapers - - - - per acre „ -	9*s.* to 10*s.*
Mowers - - - - „ „ -	3*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*
Threshers - - - - per bushel „ -	5*d.* to 6*d.*
PASTORAL LABOUR.	
Shepherds - - - - per annum, with rations	25*l.* to 60*l.*
Stockkeepers - - - „ „ -	40*l.* to 75*l.*
Hutkeepers - - - „ „ -	25*l.* to 40*l.*
Generally useful men on stations - per week „ -	14*s.* to 20*s.*
Sheepwashers - - - „ „ -	15*s.* to 25*s.*
Shearers - - - - { per 100 sheep sheared, with rations. }	8*s.* to 20*s.*
ARTIZAN LABOUR.	
Masons - - - - per day, without board	10*s.*
Plasterers - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Bricklayers - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Carpenters - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Blacksmiths - - - „ „ -	10*s.* to 13*s.*
SERVANTS—MALES AND MARRIED COUPLES.	
Married couples, without families - - } per annum, with board and lodging	70*l.* to 90*l.*
Married couples, with families - - } „ „ „ -	40*l.* to 50*l.*
Men cooks, on farms and stations - - } „ „ „ -	50*l.*
Grooms - - „ „ „ -	30*l.* to 40*l.*
Gardeners - - per week „ „ -	15*s.* to 25*s.*
SERVANTS—FEMALES.	
Cooks - - - per annum, with board and lodging	35*l.* to 60*l.*
Laundresses - - „ „ „ -	30*l.*
General servants - „ „ „ -	30*l.* to 35*l.*
Housemaids - - „ „ „ -	25*l.* to 35*l.*
Nursemaids - - „ „ „ -	20*l.* to 25*l.*
MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR.	
General labourers - - per day, without board -	6*s.* to 7*s.*
Stone-breakers - - per cubic yard, without board -	1*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Seamen - - - per month, and found - -	4*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.*
Miners - - - per week, without board -	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*

Prices.

142. Prices in Melbourne were quoted as follows during the same year. In country districts the cost of groceries, tobacco, wine, coal, &c. is naturally higher, and that of agricultural and

grazing produce, firewood, &c., naturally lower, than in Melbourne :—

Prices in Melbourne, 1879.

Articles.		Price.
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.		
Wheat	per bushel	4*s.* 8*d.* to 6*s.* 1*d.*
Barley	„	1*s.* 9*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*
Oats	„	2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 1*d.*
Maize	„	2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 10*d.*
Bran	„	1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*
Hay	per ton	3*l.* 5*s.* to 6*l.* 15*s.*
Flour, first quality	„	9*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 12*l.* 15*s.*
Bread	per 4 lb. loaf	6*d.* to 7*d.*
GRAZING PRODUCE.		
Horses:—		
Draught	each	22*l.* to 43*l.*
Saddle and harness	„	8*l.* to 52*l.* 10*s.*
Cattle:—		
Fat	„	4*l.* 10*s.* to 11*l.* 10*s.*
Milch cows	„	5*l.* to 8*l.* 15*s.*
Sheep, fat	„	4*s.* to 19*s.*
Lambs, fat	„	3*s.* 6*d* to 12*s.*
Butchers' meat:—		
Beef, retail	per lb.	2*d.* to 7*d.*
Mutton „	„	1½*d.* to 4*d.*
Veal „	„	5*d.*
Pork „	„	6*d.* to 8*d.*
Lamb „	per quarter	1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*
DAIRY PRODUCE.		
Butter:—		
Colonial, retail	per lb.	8*d.* to 2*s.* 2*d.*
Cheese:—		
Colonial, retail	„	8*d.* to 1*s.*
Imported, wholesale	„	1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*
Milk	per quart	4*d.* to 6*d.*
FARM YARD PRODUCE.		
Geese	per couple	7*s.* to 10*s.*
Ducks	„	4*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.*
Fowls	„	4*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*
Rabbits	„	6*d.* to 3*s.*
Pigeons	„	1*s.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*
Turkeys	each	6*s.* to 15*s.*
Sucking pigs	„	10*s.* to 14*s.*
Bacon	per lb.	8½*d.* to 10*d.*
Ham	„	11½*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.*
Eggs	per doz.	1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*
GARDEN PRODUCE.		
Potatoes:—		
Wholesale	per ton	2*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.*
Retail	per lb.	¾*d.* to 1*d.*
Onions, dried	per cwt.	5*s.* to 14*s.*
Carrots	per doz. bunches	6*d.* to 1*s.*
Turnips	„	6*d.* to 1*s.*
Radishes	„	6*d.*
Cabbages	per doz.	9*d.* to 6*s.*
Cauliflowers	„	9*d.* to 6*s.*
Lettuces	„	6*d.* to 2*s.*
Green pease	per lb.	1*d.* to 5*d.*

Articles.		Price.
MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.		
Tea (duty paid)	per lb.	7*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*
Coffee (in bond)	„	10*d.* to 1*s.* 4½*d.*
Sugar (duty paid)	per ton	27*l.* to 48*l.*
Rice	„	19*l.* to 30*l.*
Tobacco (in bond)	per lb.	8½*d.* to 2*s.*
Soap, Colonial	per ton	20*l.* to 30*l.*
Candles:—		
Tallow	per lb.	4¾*d.*
Sperm, stearine, paraffine, &c.	„	8½*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*
Salt	per ton	4*l.* to 5*l.* 5*l.*
Coals	„	28*s.* to 34*s.*
Firewood	„	9*s.* to 12*s.*
WINES SPIRITS, &C.		
Ale (duty paid)	per hhd.	7*l.* to 9*l.*
„ „	per doz.	6*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.*
Porter „	per hhd.	7*l.* 5*s.* to 7*l.* 10*s.*
„	per doz.	6*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* 3*d.*
Brandy (in bond)	per gall.	5*s.* 3*d.* to 9*s.* 1½*d.*
Rum „	„	2*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.*
Whiskey „	„	4*s.* 3*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.*
Hollands „	„	2*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.*
Port wine „	per pipe	21*l.* to 120*l.*
Sherry „	per butt.	20*l.* to 135*l.*
„ (duty paid)	per doz.	40*s.* to 110*s.*
Claret	„	13*s.* to 85*s.*
Champagne	„	30*s.* to 85*s.*

Price of gold.

143. The price of gold in 1879 ranged from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* 3*s.* per oz. Its purity, and consequently its value, varies in different districts. In the last quarter of 1879 the lowest price quoted (2*l.* 10*s.* per oz.) was in the Beechworth district, but some gold in the same district was stated to have realised as much as 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per oz. The highest average was in the Castlemaine district, in which the prices ranged from 3*l.* 17*s.* to 4*l.* 3*s.*; and the next highest in the Ballarat district, where the prices ranged from 3*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.* 3*s.*

Weights and measures.

144. The weights and measures used in Victoria are in every respect similar to those used in the United Kingdom.

Crown lands alienated to end of 1879.

145. The total extent of Crown lands sold in Victoria up to the end of 1879 was 11,737,718 acres, and the extent granted without purchase was 4,610 acres. The whole area alienated in fee simple was thus, 11,742,328 acres.

Crown lands selected.

146. The selected lands of which the purchase had not been completed up to the end of the year amounted to 9,905,902 acres. Of this extent it is estimated that 2,446,450 acres had been forfeited or abandoned and had reverted to the Crown. The remainder, representing approximately the whole area in process of alienation under deferred payments, amounted to 7,459,452 acres.

Crown lands unalienated.

147. According to the latest estimate, the total area of the Colony is 56,446,720 acres, and if from this be deducted the sum

of the lands granted, sold, and selected, amounting to 19,201,780 acres, it will follow that the residue, representing the Crown lands neither alienated nor in process of alienation, amounted at the end of 1879 to 37,244,940 acres.

Public estate, 1879.

148. The whole of this residue, however, is not available for selection, for it embraces lands occupied by roads, the unsold portions of the sites of towns, the State forests, auriferous, pastoral, and timber reserves, and land which is at present useless, owing to its mountainous character or to its being covered with mallee scrub, lakes, or lagoons. Deducting these lands from the extent unalienated and unselected, already stated to have been 37,244,940 acres, it will be found that the area open for selection is narrowed to 10,711,022 acres. This will be at once seen by the following table, which shows the position of the public estate at the end of 1879:—

Public Estate of Victoria on 31st December 1879.

Condition of Land.	Number of Acres.
Land alienated in fee simple	11,742,328
Land in process of alienation under deferred payments	7,459,452
Roads in connexion with the above	1,089,734
Unsold land included in town reserves	301,000
Reserves in connexion with pastoral occupation (about)	350,000
Auriferous land (about)	1,008,240
Auriferous land selected without right of purchase	146,344
State forests not included in unavailable mountain ranges	243,000
Timber reserves	395,600
Mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes, lagoons, &c. (about)	23,000,000
Area available for selection with right of purchase at end of 1879	10,711,022
Total area of Victoria	56,446,720

Crown lands alienated, 1879.

149. The land alienated from the Crown in fee simple during 1879 amounted to 283,694 acres. Of this extent, 283,191 acres were sold, and 503 acres were granted without purchase. A gradual falling off in the area alienated annually has taken place since 1872; and in 1879 the extent alienated was less than in any year since 1868.

Crown lands sold by auction.

150. Of the area sold, 56,430 acres, or about a fifth, was disposed of by auction. Nearly the whole of the remainder was in the first instance selected under the system of deferred payments. A smaller extent was sold by auction in 1879 than in any year since 1870, except 1873, 1874, and 1878.

Amount realised on Crown land sales, 1879.

151. The amount realised for Crown lands sold in 1879 was 384,432*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* per acre. Of this sum, only 236,957*l.* was received during the year, the remainder having been paid in former years as rents and license fees. The proportion sold by auction realised 156,310*l.*, or an average of 2*l.* 15*s.* 4¾*d.* per acre, and the proportion sold otherwise than at auction realised 228,122*l.*, or an average of 1*l.* 0*s.* 1½*d.* per acre.

Amount realised, 1836 to 1879.

152. From the period of the first settlement of the Colony to the end of 1879 the amount realised by the sale of Crown lands was 19,136,572*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 12*s.* 7¼*d.* per acre.

Area selected, 1879.

153. The total area selected with right of purchase in 1879 amounted to 1,018,454 acres, or 371,501 acres less than in 1878. Of this extent 1,006,024 acres were taken up by resident selectors. The average area to each resident selector was 176 acres, and to each non-resident selector 166 acres. The area selected was less than in any previous year since 1872.

Squatting runs, number and area.

154. The squatting runs in 1879 numbered 701, or 67 less than in 1878. The area of Crown lands embraced in runs amounted in 1879 to 17,183,843 acres, or 2,347,240 acres less than that estimated for 1878.

Squatting runs, average size.

155. The average size of squatting runs was 25,431 acres in 1878, and 24,513 acres in 1879. This is exclusive of any purchased land attached thereto.

Rent of runs.

156. The rent of runs is assessed in accordance with the quantity of stock the land is estimated to be able to depasture, viz., 5*s.* yearly for each head of cattle or horses, or 1*s.* yearly for each sheep. In 1878 the amount of rent payable was 122,142*l.*, or 1·501*d.* (1½*d.*) per acre; and in 1879 the amount was 104,843*l.* or 1·464*d.* (a fraction under 1½*d.*) per acre.

Land revenue.

157. The revenue from the sale and occupation of Crown lands may be divided into—(1.) receipts from the alienation of land in fee-simple, including the price realised from land sales and from rents which count towards the purchase money; (2.) receipts on account of temporary occupation, which include payments for squatting and grazing licenses, rents for business, factory and hotel sites, &c. There was a decrease under all these heads in 1879 as compared with 1878, the total decrease amounting to over 110,000*l.*, as will be seen by the following figures:—

Land Revenue, 1878 *and* 1879.

Heads of Land Revenue.	Amounts Received.		Decrease.
	1878.	1879.	
	£	£	£
Alienation in fee-simple and progressive	790,442	715,257	75,185
Temporary occupation - -	167,144	139,204	27,940
Penalties, fees, and interest - -	48,884	41,935	6,949
Total - -	1,006,470	896,396	110,074

Agricultural statistics, 1879-80.

158. The agricultural statistics to which reference will now be made are those for the year ended 31st March 1880.

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Holdings visited by collectors.

159. The holdings returned are all blocks of alienated land above one acre in extent which are occupied for agricultural or pastoral purposes. Each distinct occupation is considered to be a holding, without reference to its proprietorship, and each of several holdings in different localities owned by one person is necessarily reckoned as a distinct holding.

Land in occupation.

160. The extent of land in occupation, of which a return is made, is always less than the whole area alienated and selected. The collectors are not required to take account of holdings which do not exceed one acre, nor of gardens or grounds attached to residences which are kept merely for ornament and pleasure, nor of any lands which show no signs of occupation, or which are used for other purposes than agriculture or the keeping of stock. It is, moreover, possible that in a few instances the collectors may not be aware of the existence of, and consequently may not penetrate to some isolated blocks of purchased land held in connexion with squatting stations at a distance from agricultural districts. The agricultural statistics for the present year account for over 86½ per cent. of the extent alienated, and in process of alienation, at the end of 1879.

Land occupied and cultivated.

161. A statement of the number of holdings, and of the extent of land occupied and cultivated in the year under review, and the previous one, will be found in the following table. All the items show increase:—

*Holdings and Land * occupied and cultivated,* 1879 *and* 1880.

Year ended 31st March.	Number of Holdings larger than One Acre.	Acres occupied.	Acres under Tillage.
1879 - -	47,050	15,901,403	1,609,278
1880 - -	48,969	16,620,900	1.688,275
Increase -	1,919	719,497	78,9

Land under principal crops.

162. The principal crops grown in Victoria are wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, hay, and green forage. In 1879–80, as compared with 1878–9, an increased area was placed under each of these, except green forage, the extent under each, except green forage, was, moreover, greater in 1879–80 than in any previous year, and

* The holdings and land referred to are exclusive of Crown lands held under squatting licenses.

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that under oats was exceeded only once, viz., in 1871-2. During the past four years wheat was much more extensively cultivated than formerly. Prior to 1877 the extent under that crop never reached 400,000 acres. The following table shows the extent of land under these crops in the last two seasons:—

Land under Principal Crops, 1879 *and* 1880.

Year ended 31st March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Green Forage.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1879 - -	691,622	134,428	22,871	36,527	172,799	401,427
1880 - -	707,188	167,615	43,182	41,600	201,451	305,790
Increase -	15,566	33,187	20,311	5,073	28,652	—
Decrease -	—	—	—	—	—	95,637

Produce of principal crops.

163. The gross yield of all the principal crops, except green forage, of which no return is made, was much heavier in the past than any previous season. The following is a return of such produce in 1878-9 and 1879-80:—

Gross Produce of Principal Crops, 1879 *and* 1880.

Year ended 31st March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1879 - - -	6,060,737	2,366,026	417,157	98,958	209,028
1800 - - -	9,998,858	4,023,271	1,065,430	167,943	292,407
Increase -	3,338,121	1,657,245	648,273	68,985	83,379

Yield of principal crops, 1870 to 1880.

164. The following table shows the acreable yield of the five principal crops during each of the last eleven years, also the average during the whole period. As compared with the low averages on the previous year, a marked improvement will be noticed in the yield of every crop in 1880. The average produce of barley and of potatoes was higher than in any of the other years named, and that of oats and hay than in any except 1870, but that of wheat was exceeded in 1870 and in the five years 1872 to 1876:—

Average Produce of Principal Crops, 1870 *to* 1880.

ear ended 31st March.	Average Produce per Acre of				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1870 - -	19·75	25·98	24·55	3·09	1·60
1871 - -	10·10	14·98	12·26	3·27	1·13
1872 - -	13·45	18·76	20·00	3·22	1·40
1873 - -	16·51	19·55	20·86	3·45	1·32
1874 - -	13·58	15·69	19·84	2·86	1·27
1875 - -	14·57	18·46	21·01	3·53	1·32
1876 - -	15·49	21·92	22·20	3·37	1·33
1877 - -	13·15	19·91	21·18	3·31	1·22
1878 - -	12·41	19·39	19·81	3·11	1·18
1879 - -	8·76	17·60	18·24	2·71	1·21
1880 - -	13·29	24·67	24·67	4·04	1·45
Average of 11 years	13·21	19·79	20·98	3·27	1·31

165. Of every 1,000 acres cultivated during the past season 419 acres were placed under wheat, 99 under oats, 26 under barley, 25 under potatoes, 119 under hay, 181 under green forage, and 131 under other kinds of crops. The tendency of late years has been to crop a larger extent of land, relatively to the whole area under tillage, with wheat, and a smaller extent with the remaining crops. Proportion of land under each crop.

166. Subjoined is an estimate of the value of the crops raised during the year ended 31st March 1880. It will be seen the total amount was not far short of 6,000,000*l.* sterling:— Value of agricultural produce.

Value of Agricultural Produce, 1879–80.

Name of Crop.	Gross Produce and Price.	Estimated Value.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wheat - - -	9,398,858 bushels at 0 4 0½	1,899,352 11 1
Oats - - - -	4,023,271 „ at 0 2 3½	460,999 16 0
Barley - - -	1,065,430 „ at 0 4 8	248,600 6 8
Other cereals - - -	655,248 „ at 0 4 6	147,430 16 0
Potatoes - - -	167,943 tons at 3 9 11	587,100 14 9
Other root crops - -	26,802 „ at 5 0 0	134,010 0 0
Hay - - - -	292,407 „ at 3 3 0	921,082 1 0
Green forage - - -	305,790 acres at 3 0 0	917,370 0 0
Tobacco - - -	1,297 cwt. at 2 16 0	3,631 12 0
Grapes, not made into wine -	16,270 „ at 1 0 0	16,270 0 0
Wine - - - -	574,143 gallons at 0 4 0	114,828 12 0
Brandy - - -	3,284 „ at 0 10 0	1,642 0 0
Other crops - - -	3,403 acres at 5 0 0	17,015 0 0
Garden and orchard produce -	20,299 „ at 20 0 0	405,980 0 0
	Total - -	5,875,313 9 6

167. An increase took place in the number of both males and females engaged on agricultural and pastoral holdings in 1879–80, Hands employed.

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as compared with the number returned in the previous year. The following, including the proprietor or manager, were the numbers employed during the past two years:—

Hands employed on Agricultural and Pastoral Holdings, 1879 *and* 1880.

Year ended 31st March.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1879 - - -	71,954	31,566	103,520
1880 - - -	2,084	34,698	106,782
Increase - -	130	3,132	3,262

Live stock.

168. The numbers of live stock were returned as follows for the last two years. An increase will be observed in the number of horses, but a considerable falling off in the numbers of cattle, sheep, and pigs:—

Live Stock, 1879 *and* 1880.

Year ended 31st March.	Horses.	Cattle.			Sheep.	Pigs.
		Milch Cows.	Exclusive of Milch Cows.	Total.		
1879 -	210,105	290,407	894,436	1,184,843	9,379,276	177,373
1880 -	216,710	278,360	850,998	1,129,358	8,651,775	144,733
Increase -	6,605	—	—	—	—	—
Decrease -	—	12,047	43,438	55,485	727,501	32,640

Live stock in 1880 and previous years.

169. The returns for 1879–80 show a larger number of horses than in any previous year; but the cattle were exceeded in two years, viz., 1878–9 and 1877–8. The largest number of sheep ever returned was in 1875–6; since then there has been a falling off, and the number in the year under review was smaller than in any year since 1863–4. The number of pigs fluctuates considerably from year to year.

Value of pastoral produce.

170. The following is an estimate of the gross value of pastoral produce raised on holdings of all descriptions in 1879–80:—

Gross Value of Pastoral Produce, 1879–80.

Nature of Produce.	Value.
	£
Milk, butter, and cheese, from average number of milch cows kept, viz., 278,360, at 8*l.* 10*s.*	2,366,060
Estimated value of stock produced in 1879:—	
Cattle, 87,418, at 8*l.*	699,344
Sheep, 395,680, at 10*s.*	197,840
Pigs, 42,057, at 2*l.* 10*s.*	105,142
Horses, 10,836, at 8*l.*	86,688
Excess of exports over imports of wool, customs value	2,775,061
Estimated value of wool used in the Colony for manufacturing purposes, 1,944,406 lbs., at 1*s.* 6*d.*	145,830
Total	6,375,965

Names of manufactories.

171. The manufacturing establishments of all kinds respecting which returns are obtained are named in the following table, and their numbers are given for the year under review; also the number of hands employed, and the approximate value of plant, lands, and buildings. The establishments are for the most part of an extensive character, the only exception being in cases where the existence of industries of an unusual or interesting nature might seem to call for notice. No attempt is made to enumerate mere shops, although some manufacturing industry may be carried on thereat. Were this done, the "manufactories" in the Colony might be multiplied to an almost indefinite extent. It is customary to note all establishments worked by steam, gas, water, wind, or where horse-power is used:—

Manufactories, Works, &c., 1879–80.

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
BOOKS AND STATIONERY.			
			£
Account book manufactories, manufacturing stationers	7	558	72,640
Printing establishments	56	1,969	319,260
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.			
Organ building establishment	1	—	—
Pianoforte manufactories	6	28	6,225
PRINTS, PICTURES, &C.			
Picture-frame makers, carvers, and gilders	12	67	24,350
CARVING, FIGURES, &C.			
India-rubber stamp manufactories	2	6	3,100
Modelling (architectural and figure), &c. works	4	11	6,300
Turnery works	13	44	10,282

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
DESIGNS, MEDALS, AND DIES.			
Diesinkers, engravers, medallists, trade mark makers - - - - - -	3	8	£ 3,550
PHILOSOPHICAL INSTRUMENTS, &C.			
Philosophical instrument manufactories -	3	9	2,180
SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.			
Surgical instrument, truss manufactories -	5	19	6,720
ARMS, AMMUNITION, &C.			
Blasting powder, dynamite, &c. manufactories	3	39	7,750
Fuze manufactory - - - - -	1	—	—
Gun makers - - - - - -	4	19	7,800
MACHINES, TOOLS, AND IMPLEMENTS.			
Agricultural implement manufactories -	47	887	99,885
Cutlery, machine tool manufactories - -	6	16	4,010
Engine, machine manufactories - -	56	1,742	374,177
CARRIAGES AND HARNESS.			
Carriage lamp manufactory - - -	1	—	—
Coach, waggon, &c. manufactories - -	127	1,283	163,797
Saddle harness manufactories - - -	48	327	59,283
Saddle-tree, &c. manufactory - - -	1	—	—
Whip manufactories - - - -	2	13	400
SHIPS AND BOATS			
Ships' boat builders - - - - -	11	69	9,520
Ships' wheels, blocks, &c. manufactories -	3	6	2,970
Floating docks - - - - -	4	131	431,000
Graving docks - - - - -			
Patent slip - - - - - -	1	—	—
HOUSES, BUILDINGS, &C.			
Lime works - - - - - -	22	111	11,195
Patent ceiling ventilator manufactory -	1	—	—
Roof-covering composition manufactory -	1	—	—
FURNITURE.			
Bedding and upholstery manufactories -	16	141	24,385
Cabinet works, including billiard table makers	35	725	109,237
Iron safe manufactories - - -	2	10	1,850

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Appproximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
CHEMICALS.			
			£
Chemical works	—	100	37,985
Dye works	8	53	18,730
Essential oil manufactories	2	24	1,300
Ink, blacking, blue, washing powder, &c. manufactories	9	141	18,115
Salt works	5	61	5,300
Tar-distilling, asphalte works	5	124	7,665
TEXTILE FABRICS.			
Woollen mills	10	814	218,322
DRESS.			
Boot manufactories	92	3,212	147,591
Clothing factories	76	3,848	168,068
Fur manufactories	3	10	1,625
Hat, cap manufactories	25	360	47,170
Oilskin, waterproof clothing manufactories	4	36	2,850
Umbrella and parasol manufactories	7	32	7,715
Wig manufactories	3	14	11,970
FIBROUS MATERIALS.			
Jute factory	1	—	—
Rope, twine works	14	432	68,128
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Cheese factories	24	84	22,427
Meat-curing establishments	13	334	50,285
VEGETABLE FOOD.			
Biscuit manufactories	16	464	58,180
Confectionery works	8	110	13,535
Flour mills	139	770	439,596
Jam manufactories	6	69	6,174
Maccaroni works	3	8	652
Maizena, oatmeal, starch manufactory	1	—	—
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS.			
Aërated waters, ginger beer, liqueur, &c. works	100	549	113,445
Breweries	89	885	464,375
Coffee, chocolate, spice works	10	161	82,950
Chicory mill	1	—	—
Distilleries	6	46	5,400
Malthouses	11	69	34,250
Sauce, pickle manufactories	5	34	4,460
Sugar refinery	1	—	—
Tobacco, cigars, snuff manufactories	15	777	78,665
Vinegar works	4	18	10,815
ANIMAL MATTERS.			
Boiling-down establishments	15	86	12,560
Bone mills and bone manure manufactories	11	75	20,459
Brush manufactories	9	188	15,525
Curled hair manufactory	1	—	—

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
			£
ANIMAL MATTERS—*cont.*			
Flock manufactories	3	18	11,250
Glue, oil manufactories	7	36	10,606
Morocco fancy leather manufactories	2	12	1,500
Portmanteau, trunk manufactories	7	35	6,770
Soap, candle, tallow works	34	467	140,188
Tanneries, fellmongeries, and wool-washing establishments	122	1,777	245,658
VEGETABLE MATTERS.			
Bark mills	8	50	11,625
Basket-making works	10	40	6,953
Blind (window) manufactories	9	72	6,165
Chaff-cutting, corn-crushing works	160	646	145,326
Cooperage works	21	122	15,678
Cork manufactories	2	9	2,100
Fancy box manufactories	2	25	2,335
Moulding, framing, turning, and saw mills	129	2,209	268,922
Paper manufactories	2	177	60,106
Paper-bag manufactories	6	142	20,250
Tent, tarpaulin, manufactories	10	61	13,627
COAL.			
Gas works	19	427	747,952
STONE, CLAY, EARTHENWARE, AND GLASS.			
Brickyards and potteries	170	807	172,929
Filter manufactory	1	—	—
Glass manufactories, works	5	176	18,446
Glass works	6	51	6,380
Marble and monumental works	24	206	28,425
Stone-breaking works	1	—	—
Stone-sawing, polishing works	5	97	13,970
WATER.			
Ice manufactory	1	—	—
GOLD, SILVER, AND PRECIOUS STONES.			
Electro-plating and gilding works	10	60	15,900
Goldsmiths, jewellers, and watchmakers (manufacturing)	29	356	69,560
Lapidaries	3	7	1,625
METALS OTHER THAN GOLD AND SILVER.			
Antimony smelting works	1	—	—
Bell foundry	1	—	—
Iron and tin works	81	1,052	174,165
Iron, brass, and copper foundries	70	1,395	224,827
Lead works	1	—	—
Tin-smelting works	1	—	—
Wire-working establishments	11	63	19,334
Total where only one return was received for each of certain descriptions	—	426	261,020
Total	2,239	33,247	6,711,745

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Gold raised.

172. The estimated quantity of gold raised in Victoria during 1879 was 758,947, which at 4*l.* per oz. is equivalent to a total value of 3,035,788*l.*

Gold raised, 1870 to 1879.

173. The following figures give an estimate of the quantity of gold raised in 1870 and each subsequent year. It will be seen that since 1871 the yield of gold has been steadily decreasing :—

Estimated Quantity of Gold raised, 1870 *to* 1879.

	ozs.
1870 - - - -	1,222,798
1871 - - - -	1,355,477
1872 - - - -	1,282,521
1873 - - - -	1,241,205
1874 - - - -	1,155,972
1875 - - - -	1,095,787
1876 - - - -	963,760
1877 - - - -	809,653
1878 - - - -	775,272
1879 - - - -	758,947

Gold raised, 1851 to 1879.

174. Carrying on to the end of 1879 the calculations given in previous years, the following may be estimated as the total quantity and value of the gold raised in Victoria from the period of its first discovery in 1851. These figures give an average per annum during the whole period of about 1,683,000 ozs., which is much more than twice the quantity in 1879 :—

Estimated Total Quantity and Value of Gold raised in Victoria, 1851 *to* 1879.

Gold raised in Victoria.	Estimated Quantity.	Estimated Value at 4*l.* per oz.
	ozs.	£
Prior to 1879 - - -	48,058,649	192,234,596
During 1879 - - -	758,947	3,035,788
Total - -	48,817,596	195,270,384

Gold raised in Australasian Colonies.

175. The quantity of gold raised in all the Australasian Colonies since deposits of that metal were first discovered in 1851 is estimated to have amounted to 69 million ounces, valued at 271 million pounds sterling. The following table, which is now given for the first time, contains particulars for each Colony to the end of 1878, and of that raised during 1878. Western Australia

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is absent from the list, since little, if any, gold has yet been discovered there:—

Produce of Gold in Australasian Colonies.

Colony.	Gold produced.					
	Prior to 1878.		During 1878.		Total.	
	Estimated quantity.	Value.	Estimated quantity.	Value.	Estimated quantity.	Value.
	ozs.	£	ozs.	£	ozs.	£
Victoria - -	47,283,377	189,133,508	775,272	3,101,088	48,058,649	192,234,596
New South Wales -	8,693,368	32,193,191	117,978	423,184	8,811,346	32,616,375
Queensland -	2,617,500	9,675,419	283,592	1,052,490	2,901,092	10,727,909
South Australia -	46,356	184,767	10,747	42,650	57,103	227,417
Total of Australia	58,640,601	231,186,885	1,187,589	4,619,412	59,828,190	235,806,297
Tasmania - -	45,751	180,600	25,249	100,000	71,000	280,600
New Zealand -	8,648,996	33,765,194	310,486	1,240,079	8,959,482	35,005,273
Total of Australasia	67,335,348	265,132,679	1,523,324	5,959,491	68,858,672	271,092,170

Deep quartz mining.

176. At least 17 of the shafts sunk in Victoria in search of auriferous quartz have attained depths exceeding 1,000 feet, and one at Stawell has attained a depth of over 2,000 feet from the surface. Two shafts at Stawell are 2,273 feet and 1,940 feet deep respectively, and six more in the same district exceeded 1,000 feet; the deepest shaft at Sandhurst appears to be 1,476 feet; and the deepest at Ballarat 1,114 feet. The yield of gold from 5,250 tons of quartz obtained at Stawell at depths varying from 850 to 1,200 feet averaged from 1 oz. 2 dwt. 12 grs. to 6 oz. 17 dwt. 10 grs. per ton.

Minerals other than gold raised.

177. The following are the values of metals and minerals other than gold raised in Victoria from 1851 to the end of 1879. Of these productions the value in 1879 amounted to 43,487*l.* of which 28,324*l.* was that of copper raised:—

Value of Metals and Minerals other than Gold, 1851 *to* 1879.

	£
Silver - - - -	37,817
Tin - - - -	345,541
Copper - - - -	72,964
Antimony - - - -	156,390
Lead - - - -	4,892
Iron - - - -	3,666
Coal - - - -	13,505
Lignite - - - -	2,705
Kaolin - - - -	7,444
Flagging - - - -	48,921
Slates - - - -	940
Diamonds - - - -	108
Sapphires - - -	630
Other Minerals - - -	4,821
Total - - -	£700,344

178. The estimated value of the produce raised from Victoria mines and quarries in 1879 was as follows:— VICTORIA.

Value of mining produce.

Value of Mining Produce, 1879.

	£
Value of gold raised - - -	3,035,788
„ other metals and minerals -	43,487
„ stone raised from quarries -	57,252
	£3,136,527

179. The estimated value of the agricultural, pastoral, and mining produce raised in Victoria during each of the last six years is given in the following table. It should be borne in mind that the prices of agricultural and pastoral produce, on which the value mainly depends, fluctuates from year to year. In 1878 and 1879 these prices were below the average. In all the years except 1877 and 1879 the value of the pastoral produce was greater than that of the other two industries combined:— Agricultural, pastoral, and mining produce.

Value of Agricultural, Pastoral, and Mining Produce, 1874 *to* 1879.

Year.	Estimated Value of			Total.
	Agricultural Produce.	Pastoral Produce.	Mining Produce.	
	£	£	£	£
1874 -	4,410,436	9,840,562	4,740,679	18,991,677
1875 -	4,835,894	9,541,551	4,475,876	18,853,321
1876 -	5,574,239	10,069,570	3,949,135	19,592,948
1877 -	5,792,898	8,652,471	3,322,264	17,767,633
1878 -	4,912,745	8,360,265	3,211,990	16,485,000
1879 -	5,875,313	6,375,965	3,136,527	15,387,805

180. The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1878 and 1879 is given in the following table; those offences being distinguished:—1. In respect to which persons were brought before magistrates on summons, but were never in custody. 2. In respect to which arrests were made by the police. 3. In respect to which no person had been arrested or brought before magistrates up to the end of the month of March of the year following that in which the offence Offences reported.

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was reported. A slight increase will be observed under the first head, but a decrease under the other two heads; the total number of offences being 2 per cent. less in 1879 than in 1878 :—

Offences, 1878 *and* 1879.

Offences in respect to which—	1878.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
1. Persons were brought before magistrates on summons - - - -	19,198	19,311	113	—
2. Persons were apprehended by the police -	25,544	24,625	—	919
3. The offenders were still at large - -	4,892	4,630	—	262
Total - - -	49,634	48,566	—	1,068

Charges counted as persons.

181. Very full details are given of the offences which gave occasion for the apprehensions made by the police; but, in making up the returns, a person arrested more than once during the year, or arrested at one time on several charges, is counted as a separate individual in respect to each arrest or charge, and this must be borne in mind by those consulting the following paragraphs and tables.

Arrests, 1869, 1874, and 1879.

182. The persons who were taken in charge by the Victorian police in 1879, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquenniads, were as follow :—

Persons arrested, 1869, 1874, *and* 1879.

—	1869.	1874.	1879.
Taken into custody - -	24,770	23,856	24,625
Discharged by magistrates - -	7,730	6,929	7,227
Summarily convicted or held to bail -	16,198	16,233	16,770
Committed for trial - - -	842	694	628

Arrests in proportion to population.

183. It will be observed that most arrests were made at the first period and fewest at the middle period, the last period occupying in this respect, a place between the two others. In proportion to the number of persons in the Colony, however, arrests at the last period were even less numerous than at the middle period, and much less so than at the first period. The proportion was 1 to every 28 persons living at the first period, 1 to every 33 persons living at the second period, and of 1 to every 36 persons living at the third period.

184. The persons summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial were to the whole number arrested in the proportion of 69 per cent. at the first period, and of 71 per cent. at the second and third periods. Proportion of times charge was sustained.

185. The diminution in the number of serious offences is shown by the decreasing number of commitments for trial at each successive period. These were in the proportion of 1 to every 29 arrests at the first period, of 1 to every 34 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 39 arrests at the third period. Diminution of serious offences.

136. A condensed statement of the offences for which arrests were made in the same three years, together with the numbers arrested for each offence, will be found in the following table:— Causes of arrest.

Causes of Arrest, 1869, 1874, *and* 1879.

Offence.	1869.	1874.	1879.
Murder and attempt at murder	31	10	15
Manslaughter	36	28	14
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	46	73	46
Assaults	1,557	1,653	1,682
Rape and indecent assaults on females	58	49	60
Unnatural offence, and assaults with intent to commit	22	11	8
Other offences against the person	102	108	140
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	215	177	203
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	174	189	154
Other offences against property	3,936	3,372	3,508
Forgery and offences against the currency	105	91	100
Drunkenness	10,647	10,981	10,859
Other offences against good order	5,676	5,058	6,043
Offences relating to carrying out laws	625	473	393
Smuggling, and other offences against the revenue	90	73	85
Offences against public welfare	1,450	1,510	1,315
Total	24,770	23,856	24,625

187. Arrests for manslaughter, for unnatural offences, for horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, for offences relating to carrying out laws, and for offences against public welfare, were less numerous at the last period than at either the second or the first. Apprehensions for assaults for rape and indecent assaults on females, for miscellaneous offences against the person, and for Offences at last period.

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miscellaneous offences against good order, were more numerous at the last period than at either of the other periods.

Results of summary disposal.

188. The results of the summary disposal of cases by magistrates in the year 1879 were as follow :—

Summary Disposal by Magistrates of Arrested Persons, 1879.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.
Imprisonment for 3 years	3	—
„ 2 years	14	—
„ 1 year and under 2 years	174	76
„ 6 months and under 1 year	270	175
„ 5 months	2	
„ 4 months	18	4
„ 3 months	780	349
„ 2 months and under 3 months	217	66
„ 1 month and under 2 months	903	308
„ 15 days and under 1 month	70	9
„ 8 days and under 15 days	491	211
„ 7 days and under	3,433	1,378
Fined	5,562	734
Ordered to find bail	308	51
Sent to industrial school or reformatory	408	206
Otherwise dealt with	408	140
Total sentenced	13,061	3,709
Discharged	5,521	1,706
Total summarily disposed of	18,582	5,415
Escaped whilst on remand	3	—
Total arrested	18,585	5,415

Sentences by magistrates.

189. Of the persons sentenced by magistrates during 1879 43 per cent. of the males, and 20 per cent. of the females were fined; 30 per cent. of the former, and 43 per cent. of the latter were imprisoned for various terms under a month, and 17 and 24 per cent. respectively for periods varying from 1 to 12 months; but little more than 1 per cent. of the males, but more than 2 per cent. of the females, were sentenced to more than 1 year's imprisonment; the balance, or 9 per cent. of the males, and 11 per cent. of the females, were otherwise disposed of.

Results of committals for trial.

190. The results of the commitments for trial at the three periods already referred to were as follow :—

Results of Commitments for Trial, 1869, 1874, *and* 1879.

—	1869.	1874.	1879.
Number for trial	842	694	692
Convicted and sentenced	507	436	397
Acquitted	256	194	180
Not prosecuted	79	64	53
Awaiting trial	—	—	62

191. Of those committed for trial in 1869 and 1874 respectively 763 and 630 were eventually tried. Including 64 remaining for trial from the previous year, 577 were tried in 1879. At the first period 66 per cent., and at the second and third periods 69 per cent., of the trials resulted in convictions. Proportion of convictions obtained.

192. One criminal, an Irishman, claiming to be a member of the Roman Catholic Church, was executed in 1879 for murder. Executions have taken place in Victoria in each year since its separation from New South Wales, except 1874 and 1878. In the 15 years ended with 1879 the total number of executions was 43. Those executed were all males, and no native of Victoria is included in the list. Execution.

193. Places for the reception of prisoners in Victoria are of three kinds: ordinary gaols, police gaols, and penal establishments. The ordinary gaols are both houses of correction and debtors' prisons,* the penal establishments are houses of correction only. The police gaols are used for the detention of prisoners sentenced to short periods of imprisonment, or awaiting trial or transfer to some other gaol or penal establishment, or to a lunatic asylum. The total and average number of males and females detained in each of these descriptions of prison during 1879, and the numbers transferred from one institution to another in the same year, will be found in the following table:— Gaols and prisoners.

Gaols and Penal Establishments, 1879.

Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners detained during the Year.						Prisoners transferred from one Institution to another during the Year.		
		Total Number.			Average at One Time.					
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Gaols - - -	9	6,672	2,808	9,480	536	312	848	2,781	535	3,316
Police gaols - -	10	487	65	552	23	—	23	146	16	162
Penal establishments -	3	2,035	—	2,035	692	—	692	255	—	255
Total - -	22	9,194	2,873	12,067	1,251	312	1,563	3,182	551	3,733

194. Estimating the mean population of the Colony during 1879 as 888,500, consisting of 483,425 males and 405,075 females, and comparing these figures with those in the table showing the average number of prisoners, it follows that 1 person to every 568 persons living was constantly in prison during the year, or, distinguishing the sexes, that during the same period 1 male to every 386 males living and 1 female to every 1,298 females living were constantly in detention. Proportion of prisoners to population.

195. An abstract of the estimated numbers of the population at various ages, of the average number of prisoners at the same Ages of prisoners.

* Imprisonment for debt in Victoria, except in case of fraud, was abolished in 1865.

ages, and the proportion of the latter to the former will be found in the following table:—

Ages of Prisoners, 1879.

Ages.	Estimated Mean Population.	Average Number of Prisoners constantly detained.	Prisoners per 10,000 of the Population.
Under 20 years - -	458,815	240	5·23
20 to 30 „ - -	124,481	445	35·75
30 to 40 „ - -	102,008	313	30·68
40 to 50 „ - -	105,284	292	27·73
50 to 60 „ - -	63,360	178	28·09
60 years and upwards -	34,552	95	27·49
Total - -	888,500	1,563	17·59

Proportion of prisoners at various ages.

196. It appears from this table that, in 1879, the proportion of prisoners constantly detained to the population was greatest between the ages of 20 and 30, and gradually diminished up to 60 years. Of persons of both sexes over 20 years of age living in Victoria, 1 to every 325 of those between 20 and 40, 1 to every 299, and of those over 40, 1 to every 360, were constantly in prison throughout the year.

Churches and clergy.

197. The numbers of registered clergy, of buildings used for public worship, of persons such buildings could accommodate, of those usually attending divine service, and of the services performed in connexion with each religious denomination, were returned as follow for the year 1879:—

Churches and Clergy, 1879.

Religious Denominations.	Number of Registered Clergy.	Churches and other Buildings used for Public Worship.			Approximate Number of Services during the Year.
		Number.	Persons for whom there is Accommodation.	Persons usually attending at Principal Service.	
Church of England -	156	505	71,533	44,667	27,612
Roman Catholics -	94	450	94,760	60,260	39,976
Presbyterians -	156	678	75,850	66,215	37,077
Wesleyans - -	139	872	113,269	73,208	84,696
Independents -	48	97	16,721	8,660	9,916
Baptists - -	40	76	13,800	7,925	8,473
Bible Christians -	16	103	10,603	4,272	6,690
Evangelical Lutherans	12	45	4,480	2,910	3,096
Welsh Calvinists -	2	5	900	370	275
Church of Christ -	14	31	4,065	1,703	3,022
Other Christians -	18	21	2,940	1,512	4,451
Jews - - -	8	6	1,909	501	1,468
Spiritualists - -	—	1	1,500	900	52
Total - -	703	2,890	412,330	273,103	226,804

198. The returns, as compared with those of the previous year, show an equal number of clergy, an increase of 75 in the number of places of worship, of 461 in the number of services performed, and of over 20,000 in the congregations at the principal services on the Sabbath, but a falling off equal to that for 7,721 persons in the accommodation.

Increase or decrease in churches, clergy, &c.

199. The number of Sabbath schools in 1879 was 1,598, the number of teachers was 13,320, and the number of scholars in average attendance was 119,770. The ages of the children attending these schools are not ascertained; many are no doubt below, whilst a few may be above, the school age, or that between 6 and 15 years; but comparing the number of Sabbath scholars with the numbers at the school age in the population estimated to amount to 211,200, the proportion would be 57 per cent.

Sabbath schools.

200. The Melbourne University was established under a special Act of the Victorian Legislature, which was assented to on the 22nd January 1853. This Act provides for the endowment of the University by the payment of 9,000*l.* annually out of the general revenue; also that no religious test shall be administered to anyone to entitle him to be admitted to the rights and privileges of the institution; also for the appointment of a council consisting of twenty members, of whom sixteen at least must be laymen, and for the election by them out of their own body of a chancellor and a vice-chancellor; also for the constitution of a senate, to be presided over by a warden, as soon as the superior degrees* should amount to not less than 100. This number was reached in 1867, and the senate was constituted on the 14th June of that year. By the Act of Incorporation the council were empowered to grant degrees in Arts, Medicine, Laws, and Music, to which degrees in surgery were added by Act 39 Vict. No. 525, assented to on 7th April 1876.

Melbourne University.

201. On 22nd March 1880 the University was thrown open to females, and they can now be admitted to all its corporate privileges, except the study of medicine, from which they are restricted until special provision has been made for their instruction in that subject.

University thrown open to females.

202. Provision had been made in the Act of Incorporation for the establishment of affiliated colleges in connection with religious denominations, and ground for the erection of such colleges was reserved near the University. The Church of England was the first denomination to take advantage of this privilege, their institution, which is named Trinity College, having been affiliated in 1876. The Presbyterians will before long also be represented, as they are at present erecting a building to be called Ormond College, after Mr. Francis Ormond, who contributed 10,000*l.* towards the edifice, and a further sum of 2,500*l.* towards its endowment. In Trinity College the payments per term for matriculated students are 4*l.* 4*s.*, and for non-matriculated students, 9*l.* 9*s.*

Affiliated colleges.

* Comprising degrees of Master of Arts and Doctors of Laws, Music, and Medicine.

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Attendance at lectures.

203. There were 273 students at the University during 1879, of whom 109 were attending lectures on medicine, 73 on arts, 51 on laws, and 40 on engineering.

Graduates.

204. The number of graduates during 1879 numbered 65, of whom 56 took direct and 9 *ad eundem* degrees.

Public and private schools.

205. The present Education Act providing free instruction of a secular character to all willing to accept it, but prescribing that, whether willing to accept State education or not, all children must be educated up to a certain standard, came into operation on 1st January 1873. In 1879 there were 1,713 public and 568 private schools. At the former there were 4,130 teachers and 193,588 distinct scholars, and at the latter 1,587 teachers and 34,824 scholars. The following figures show the growth of the school system since 1872.

Public and Private Schools, 1872 *to* 1879.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Distinct Scholars.
1872 - -	1,937	4,257	137,978
1873 - - -	1,760	4,595	192,664
1874 - - -	1,777	5,224	206,458
1875 - - -	1,885	5,337	210,965
1876 - - -	2,143	5,418	221,505
1877 - - -	2,156	5,317	223,416
1878 - - -	2,249	5,562	225,328
1879 - - -	2,281	5,717	228,412

Increase of schools, &c.

206. By comparing the first and last lines of the table, it appears that in 1879 there were 344 more schools, with 1,460 more teachers, 90,434 more children, than there were in the year prior to that in which the present State school system was introduced.

Increase in 1879.

207. As compared with the previous year, the schools in 1879 increased by 32, the instructors by 155, and the scholars by 3,084.

Ages of scholars.

208. The age prescribed by law as that at which children shall attend school, unless there be some reasonable excuse for their not doing so, is from 6 to 14 years last birthday, both inclusive. The following are the estimated numbers at those ages receiving education in Victoria during 1879.

Children at School Age receiving Education, 1879.

Being educated :—	
In State schools - - -	154,149
In private schools - - -	26,653
In public institutions - -	1,939
At home (estimated) - - -	10,000
Total - - - -	192,741

Scholars and others at school age.

209. The average number of children at the school age living in Victoria during the year 1879 may be estimated to have been 211,200. If this be correct, the following would be the numbers and per-centage receiving and not receiving education :—

Children at School Age receiving and not receiving Education, 1879.

	Numbers.	Per-centage.
Being educated -	192,741	91·26
Not being educated -	18,459	8·74
Total at school age (estimated)	211,200	100·00

Proportion of scholars at school age.

210. By these figures it would appear that all but 8¾ per cent. of the children at the school age were attending school during some portion of 1879. It should, however, be borne in mind that the estimate of the total number of children at that age, although based upon the best information obtainable, is not absolutely to be relied upon. Should there be more children, the proportion being educated would, of course, be smaller, and should there be fewer, it would be greater than that here given.

Inmates and deaths in charities.

211. The following table shows the total and average number of inmates in the various charitable institutions during 1879, also the number of deaths, and the proportion of deaths to inmates.

Charitable Institutions—Inmates and Deaths, 1879.

Description of Institutions.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during Year.	Daily Average.		
General hospitals -	14,976	1,611·3	1,451	9·69
Lying-in Hospital, &c. -	1,042	51·0	22	2·11
Blind Asylum - -	108	93·0	2	1·85
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	88	75·5	—	—
Eye and Ear Hospital -	242	13·0	—	—
Children's Hospital -	389	32·5	25	6·43
Benevolent asylums -	1,524	1,149·8	176	11·55
Immigrants' Home -	2,866	594·0	76	2·65
Orphan asylums -	1,252	1,035·2	3	·24
Industrial and reformatory schools - -	1,605	825·5	13	·81
Hospitals for the insane -	3,590	2,934·0	225	6·27
Female refuges - -	560	225·0	3	·54
Total - -	88,242	8,639·8	1,996	7·07

VICTORIA.

Receipts and expenditure.

212. A statement of the receipts and expenditure of the same charities is given in the following table : —

Charitable Institutions—Receipts and Expenditure, 1879.

Description of Institutions.	Receipts.			Expenditure.
	From Government.	From other Sources.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
General hospitals -	63,695	36,513	100,208	98,731
Lying-in Hospitals, &c. -	2,150	1,368	3,518	3,558
Blind Asylum - -	2,000	1,952	3,952	4,802
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	1,750	2,055	3,805	3,691
Eye and Ear Hospital -	1,012	872	1,884	1,320
Children's Hospital -	600	1,542	2,142	2,672
Benevolent asylums	22,155	11,331	33,486	33,119
Immigrants' Home -	6,750	2,251	9,001	7,637
Orphan asylums - -	12,238	7,156	19,394	19,864
Industrial and reformatory schools - -	20,900	3,196	24,096	22,997
Hospitals for the insane -	85,141	4,077*	89,218	89,218
Female refuges - -	2,115	6,502	8,617	8,459
Total - -	220,506	78,815	299,321	296,068

Victorian Year Book, 1879–80.

213. For complete information on many points which have been merely touched upon, and on others which are not even mentioned in this digest, the reader is referred to the "Victorian Year Book,† 1879–80."

HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER,
Government Statist of Victoria.

* This represents the amount paid into the Treasury in 1879 by the Master in Lunacy on account of the maintenance of lunatic patients, and it is entered in this table as being a set-off against the total cost to Government of these institutions.

† This is an official publication by the Government Statist, published annually, and may be obtained from the Government Printer, Melbourne, or George Robertson, 17, Warwick Square, London.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1877 to 1879 inclusive.*

Year.	Population on 31st December.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration.	Emigration.	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.	Crown Land Sales.		Land in Cultivation.	Live Stock.				Postage.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.								Area sold.	Amount realised.		Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	No. of Post Offices.	Number of Letters.	No. of Newspapers.
									£	£	Acres.	£	Acres.							
1877	860,787	467,741	393,046	26,010	12,776	5,103	41,196	33,943	4,723,877	4,358,096	323,082	375,494	1,420,502	203,150	1,169,576	10,118,867	183,391	948	20,910,958	9,809,064
1878	879,442	478,316	401,126	26,581	12,702	5,092	42,268	37,492	4,504,413	4,634,349	307,457	375,535	1,609,278	210,105	1,184,843	9,379,276	177,373	1,007	22,324,931	10,697,331
1879	899,333	489,559	409,774	26,839	12,120	4,986	44,384	39,212	4,621,520	4,833,379	283,191	384,432	1,688,275	216,710	1,129,358	8,651,775	144,733	1,069	23,215,648	10,075,407

Continued.

Year.	Shipping.				Vessels built.		Vessels registered.		Mortgages and Liens.		Imports.	Imports of		Exports.	Exports of						
	Inwards.		Outwards.									Breadstuffs (Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit).			Wool.		Tallow.		Hides and Skins.	Breadstuffs (Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit).	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Amount secured.	Total Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Total Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
										£	£	Bushels.	£	£	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	£	£	Bush.	£
1877	2,192	939,661	2,219	935,324	7	425	26	6,588	6,510	4,706,138	16,362,304	80,166	24,370	15,157,687	98,468,208	5,670,871	6,048,000	90,455	35,570	464,284	73,960
1878	2,119	951,750	2,173	961,677	11	509	33	6,421	9,655	6,233,752	16,161,880	59,420	14,699	14,925,797	101,809,809	5,810,148	7,387,520	103,879	29,123	1,065,388	311,670
1879	2,084	963,087	2,083	977,135	4	146	23	5,227	12,063	7,358,952	15,035,538	83,837	20,763	12,454,170	95,628,281	5,269,634	11,780,160	150,867	50,902	1,041,221	272,438

* The Statistical Summary for several previous years will be found printed at pages 89–92 of [C.-2730] of September 1880.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1877 to 1879 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Gold Raised.		Public Debt on Dec. 31.	Government Expenditure on					Railways.			Electric Telegraphs.			Banks of Issue.			
	Estimated Quantity.	Value at 4*l.* per oz.		Railways.	Roads and Bridges.	Melbourne Water Supply (Yan Yean).	Other Water-works.	Other Public Works.	Miles Opened.	Train Miles Travelled.	Total Receipts.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams.	Number of Banks.	Paid-up Capital.	Assets.	Liabilities.
	oz.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			£					£	£	£
1877	809,653	3,238,612	17,018,913	1,019,201	16,759	39,565	170,374	258,638	950	3,271,007	1,319,638	206	5,200	919,985	13	8,756,894	26,258,439	18,183,119
1878	775,272	3,101,088	17,022,065	935,666	11,888	86,229	54,512	313,039	1,052	3,633,190	1,391,701	233	5,404	1,003,654	13	9,188,653	26,096,185	17,715,867
1879	758,947	3,035,788	20,050,753	2,382,513*	36,884	40,065	9,581	356,547	1,125	4,002,624	1,383,650	257	5,736	1,010,116	11	9,026,250	25,339,843	17,818,225

Continued.

Year.	Savings Banks.			Friendly Societies.		Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.			Shires and Road Districts.			Flour Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c. (exclusive of Flour Mills).	Mining Machines.	Churches and Chapels.	Schools.		Melbourne University.		Number of Persons			
	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Balances.	Number of Branches.	Average Number of Members.	Number.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.	Number.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.					Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars on the Rolls.	Number of Matriculated Students.	Number of Direct Graduates.	Taken into Custody.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	Executed.
			£				£	£		£	£												
1877	177	73,245	1,575,305	703	43,330	59	29,332,030	459,108	111	48,282,719	535,496	150	2,220	4,540	2,715	2,156	262,941	103	26	26,532	594	340	1
1878	184	76,697	1,510,273	756	45,692	59	31,887,816	453,665	114	52,545,666	455,593	149	2,194	4,428	2,815	2,256	268,251	114	24	25,544	658	458	—
1879	196	82,941	1,520,296	766	45,933	57	31,352,880	447,712	115	51,891,236	605,776	139	2,100	4,379	2,890	2,279	261,991	112	56	24,625	628	397	1

* Including the cost of the late Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company's lines, which amounted to 1,320,820*l.*

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, Government Statist.

TASMANIA.

No. 3.

Administrator Sir F. SMITH to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Hobart Town.
September 1, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward certain Parliamentary papers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS SMITH.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN to the Honourable the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Legislative Council Office, Hobart Town,
August 5, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present to you the statistics of this Colony for the year 1879, and to offer such observations under the several heads as circumstances seem to require.

POPULATION.

The population on the 31st December of that year is calculated to have been 112,469, of whom 59,447 were males and 53,022 females, the increase during the year being 2,522, or 74 more than in 1878. The addition by excess of births over deaths was 1876, and by excess of immigration over emigration 646.

The mean population for the year, or the number of inhabitants on 30th June, which is now used as the basis for the calculation of nearly all ratios relating to population, is estimated to have been 111,208.

Reference was made in my last Report to the difficulty of reconciling the returns of immigration and emigration between

TASMANIA. Tasmania and the principal Australian Colonies, as furnished by them and by our own Customs Department respectively. No such difficulty has been felt in regard to the returns for the past year; and the number of persons who left this Colony for Victoria and New South Wales has therefore been taken from the returns f arrivals there.

In regard to New Zealand, however, our own returns have been used for departures as well as arrivals, inasmuch as they appeared to be more in accordance with the probabilities of the case than those furnished by that Colony. According to the latter, 143 persons embarked for Tasmania, and 329 arrived from thence; but as the returns of the Customs here made the latter number 549, and as the number of outward bound passengers as enumerated at the port of departure must always, for reasons stated in former reports, be less than it really is, it seemed plain that a considerable proportion of those who proceeded to New Zealand from this Colony were not reckoned among the arrivals in the former Colony.

The total number of persons who arrived in the Colony in 1879 was 10,578; of those who left it, 9,932; the difference in favour of the incomers being, as before stated, 646. Victoria took 7,985 of our people, and gave us back 8,807 of her own, or 822 more than she received; New South Wales took 1,370, and gave back only 1,354, leaving us with a loss of 16; South Australia absorbed 17, and returned 12; New Zealand attracted 549, (probably more), and parted with 399, retaining 150; while the United Kingdom exchanged 6 of her denizens for 11 of ours—an exchange for us which (if the lighter Muses may venture to intrude within the domain of statistics) reminds one of that of Glaucus and Diomedes:—

> "So then was Glaucus both in mind and deed
> Robbed of his wits by Kronos' son divine,
> To change arms with illustrious Diomede.
> Thus gold for brass it pleased him to resign—
> Arms worth a hundred oxen for the worth of nine." *

Under the regulations of the Board of Immigration, commonly known as the "Bounty System," there were introduced in 1879 56 persons, of whom 45 were from England, 7 from Ireland, and 4 from other countries. In 1878 the number so introduced was 44.

Ten persons were naturalised in 1879, 8 being Germans, 1 a Swede, and 1 a native of China. As regards occupation 6 were described as farmers, 1 as a miner, 1 as a hawker, 1 as a storekeeper and licensed victualler, and 1 as a carter.

TRADE, COMMERCE, AND NAVIGATION.

In the present volume, by direction of the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer to the Customs Department, a change has been made in the mode of furnishing the returns of imports and exports,

* Worsley's "Iliad," vi. 28.

Previously those for Hobart Town and Launceston were furnished to me and printed separately, a practice which, while it had the advantage of showing the commerce of each port, occasioned considerable inconvenience, since any person who wished to know the imports or exports of any particular article for the whole Colony was put to the trouble of first turning to the one set of returns, then to the other, extracting the figures, and adding them together, which often entailed a good deal of labour and loss of time. One return now embraces the commerce of both ports;* and the same amount of information can consequently be obtained by a simple inspection.

The value of the imports in 1879 was 1,267,475*l.*, which was less than in 1877 and 1878 (the decrease as regards the latter year being 57,337*l.*), but greater than in any other of the last 10 years. The rate per head was 11*l.* 7*s.* 11¼*d.*, against 12*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* in 1878.

The import trade with the different countries was as under:—

	£
United Kingdom	337,050
Victoria	713,175
New South Wales	107,309
New Zealand	5,845
Queensland	14,440
South Australia	2,400
Mauritius	74,347
Foreign States	12,909

As compared with the year 1878, there were the following increases:—

	£
New South Wales	18,256
Queensland	4,040
Foreign States	8,683
	30,979

As regards all the other countries there were decreases, as follows:—

	£
United Kingdom	36,416
Victoria	647
New Zealand	14,835
South Australia	275
Mauritius	30,093
Other British Possessions	6,050
	88,316

* This saving of space has enabled me to introduce several additional decennial ables without increasing the size of the volume.

TASMANIA.

The value of imports from the United Kingdom was the smallest since 1872. Those from Victoria were nearly the same as in 1878. The decrease as regards New Zealand seems comparatively very large, but it must be observed that in 1878 the imports from that Colony were exceptionally great. Still, however, the value in 1870, 1876, and 1877, exceeded that of 1879. The trade with South Australia has always been very uncertain, and therefore the small decrease in 1879 is of little importance. The imports from the Mauritius in 1878 were, like those from New Zealand, exceptional. As compared with those of 1877 there was an increase of 2,702*l.* From "Other British Possessions" there were no imports in 1879; hence the decrease.

On comparing the imports of some of the most important articles as between the years 1878 and 1879, we find that the principal differences were in boots and shoes, coal and coke, coin (gold), drapery, grain (wheat), jewellery and plate, live stock, musical instruments, spirits and cordials, wines, stationery, sugar, tobacco and cigars. On the following there were increases to the extent shown:—

	£
Boots and shoes - - -	9,721
Coin, gold - - - -	26,500
Drapery - - - -	18,635
Live stock:	
Cattle - - - -	2,610
Sheep - - - -	2,803

The decreases were these:—

	£
Coal and coke - - -	12,026
Grain, wheat -	18,910*
Jewellery and plate - -	5,064
Live stock: horses - - -	11,791*
Musical instruments - -	3,399
Spirits and cordials - - -	4,032
Wines - - - -	3,021
Stationery - - - -	8,226*
Sugar - - - -	44,727*
Tobacco and cigars - - -	3,325

In the three articles of wheat, horses, and sugar alone the decrease was about 75,000*l.*, more than the difference between the total values of the imports for those years, so that in all others, taken collectively, there was a considerable increase.

The value of sugar brought into the Colony in 1878 was very high (165,968*l.*), the next highest being 145,816 in 1873. At the beginning of the decennial period it was only 96,661*l.*

The value of spirits has not been so small since 1873; that of wines, since 1872.

* The imports in 1878 were exceptionally large.

The value of exports in 1879 was 1,301,097*l.*, being less by 14,598*l.* than in 1878, but greater than in any other year of the decennium, with the exception of 1877 and 1878. The rate per head in 1879 was 11*l.* 14*s.* 0¼*d.* against 12*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* in 1878.

Of the total value in 1879, 1,289,395*l.*, or 99·1 per cent., was that of the produce of the Colony, and 11,702*l.* or 0·9 per cent. that of other countries. In 1870 the value of the latter was 3·71 per cent. of the total exports.

The following were the exports to various countries in 1879:—

	£
United Kingdom - - -	600,876
Victoria - - - -	361,909
New South Wales - - -	202,387
New Zealand - - -	97,046
Queensland - - -	5,515
South Australia - - -	33,069
Mauritius - - - -	95
Foreign States - - -	200

The increases and decreases as between 1878 and 1879 were as under:—

Increases.

	£
Victoria - - - -	52,250
New Zealand - - -	4,635
South Australia - - -	6,389
Others - - - -	295

Decreases.

	£
United Kingdom - - -	38,888
New South Wales - - -	38,809
Queensland - -	470

The exports of bark during the past year were greater than in the two preceding years. Those of butter and cheese were less than in any of the last 20 years, the farthest point to which the comparison was carried being 1859. In 1859 the value was 12,782*l.*, in 1865 26,570*l.*, from which it declined to 2,391*l.* in 1872, rose to 11,072*l.* in 1876, fell to 8,821*l.* in the next year, and to 595*l.* in 1879. It is not easy to understand why dairy farming in Tasmania should have so declined. Good butter can always find a ready sale, and the same has generally been the case with cheese.

The jam trade was little less active in 1879 than in the year before, the quantity shipped being 3,915,881 lbs. against 3,981,450. The quantity of green fruit sent away was greater than in 1878, being 142,252 and 123,785 bushels respectively.

TASMANIA.

In the metals, gold and tin, there was a large increase in 1879. The following were the quantities and values of the exports in the last four years :—

		Quantity.	Value.
		ozs.	£
Gold	1876	10,278	41,861
	1877	6,729	26,904
	1878	15,305	59,124
	1879	38,895	145,723
		tons.	
Tin, ore and smelted	1876	1,616	99,605
	1877	5,747	296,941
	1878	5,947	316,311
	1879	4,563	303,203

In regard to gold it should be observed that the real quantity exported is very much greater than that which appears in the Customs returns, since large parcels are frequently sent to Melbourne by private hand, of which no record can be made.

The exports of grain have been falling off for years, in consequence of the imposition of protective duties in some of the other Colonies, of the increasing ability of those Colonies to supply themselves, and also, it may be inferred, in consequence of the growing difficulty of obtaining labour of suitable kind and at remunerative rates. In 1879, wheat, 15,090 bushels ; oats, 109,086; and barley, 8,412, were shipped away, the quantity of wheat being considerably larger than in 1878, when it was only 6,497 bushels, but that of the other articles showing a serious decrease. In 1870 the exports were, wheat, 78,955 bushels; oats, 359,225 ; barley, 10,697.

The value of hides, skins, and leather in 1879 was only 12,811*l.* against 23,424*l.* in 1878.

The quantity of hops was 558,622 lbs. against 684,348.

The number of horses was smaller, being 137, against 287 ; that of sheep greater, being 938 against 654. The value of sheep exported in 1879 (31,324*l.*) was the largest in the 10 years. It

increased with the improvement in the breed and the reputation of the breeder. In 1870 such sheep were valued at about 4*l.* 11*s.* per head, in 1879 at over 33*l.* At the late Exhibition in Sydney, Tasmanian wool growers took 37 prizes, two being champion gold medals. Stud rams from Tasmania have since brought at auction in Sydney as high as 155 guineas; 12 four-tooth rams averaging 58*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* each, the general average being, for rams, 22*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, and for ewes, 16*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*

Hides, skins, and leather show a large falling off in the value, from 23,424*l.* to 12,811*l.*, the latter amount being the smallest since 1866. The trade in rabbit skins was, however, unusually lively, the number exported (1,022,892) being the largest ever recorded.

The trade in hops has been declining since 1876 from the same causes as those which have operated in the case of grain, namely, protective duties and growing independence of foreign supplies. The quantity shipped in the last seven years was as shown below:—

	lbs.		lbs.
1873 - - -	826,783	1877 - - -	726,018
1874 - - -	819,145	1878 - - -	684,348
1875 - - -	767,444	1879 - - -	558,622
1876 - - -	848,405		

The quantity of whale oil exported in 1879 (245 tuns) was the smallest since 1867.

The timber trade also showed a great depression, the value of the exports in 1879 being 59,713*l.*, against 72,989*l.* in 1878, and nearly the same figures in 1877. The value has not been so small as in 1879 since 1872.

Tin was exported in 1879 to the value of 303,203*l.* This was less than in 1878, but very much larger than in any other year. The shipments of tin from their commencement were as follows:—

	£		£
1873 - - -	220	1877 - - -	296,941
1874 - - -	7,318	1878 - - -	316,311
1875 - - -	31,325	1879 - - -	303,203
1876 - - -	99,605		

Nearly all the tin is now smelted in the Colony, only 75 tons of ore having been exported in 1879. There was also sent to Sydney for reduction in that year 172 tons of slag.

The quantity of vegetables sent abroad in 1879 (9,475 tons) was about 50 per cent. larger than in 1878, and has not been exceeded since 1871. The value (39,474*l.*) is the highest in the last 10 years, the next highest being 28,997*l.* in 1877.

TASMANIA.

Wool was exported in 1879 to the extent of 7,385,002 lbs., a decrease as compared with 1878 of 127,660 lbs. In no other year of the last decennium, however, except 1877 and 1878, was the quantity larger. In the first five years of that period the average annual export was 4,938,902 lbs.; in the last, 7,192,365 lbs., nearly double.

In last report the clips of wool from 1873 to 1877 were shown. The following figures bring the information up to November 1879. The month of November was chosen as the termination of the year rather than June, because it is the last month before the new clip begins to come in, and, therefore, the period between the last day of October and the 1st of November in the following year includes nearly all the wool from slaughtered as well as shorn sheep removed during the year :—

	lbs.		lbs.
1873 - -	5,480,890	1876 - -	7,058,393
1874 - -	6,054,485	1877 - -	7,599,033
1875 - -	6,629,211	1878 - -	8,029,808

Thus it appears there has been a continuous rise in the quantity year by year. That this is not caused only by the increase in the number of sheep will be seen from the following figures, which show the average weight of each fleece, as found by dividing the clip by the number of sheep (not including those in the Straits) returned in the statistics :—

	Average Weight of Wool per Sheep. Lbs.		Average Weight of Wool per Sheep. Lbs.
1874 - -	3·67	1877 - - -	4·02
1875 - -	3·53	1878 - - -	4·17
1876 - -	3·85	1879 - - -	4·36

Here, also, the increase (with the exception of 1875) has been continuous. In 1879 the fleeces had gained 16 per cent. as compared with their weight in 1874. These figures may not be quite accurate in regard to the absolute weight of fleece, inasmuch as to make them so the number of sheep would require to be corrected according to the more accurate returns furnished to the Chief Inspector of Sheep; but they are perfectly trustworthy as regards the point which they are intended to prove,—that the weight of wool per sheep has been increasing for many years past, —the difference as between 1874 and 1879 being 16 per cent. A part of this extra weight, however, is caused by a larger proportion of sheep being now shorn in the grease.

The quantities of goods in bond on 31st December last varied considerably from those in the previous year, in the case of some of the principal articles being much smaller. For the information

of persons who are interested in matters of supply and demand the following comparative figures are subjoined;—

—		1878.	1879.
Beef and pork	Lbs.	5,128	14,286
Candles	„	3,925	675
Chicory	„	28,000	12,320
Coffee	„	18,536	26,027
Drapery	Cubic ft.	1,251	2,459
Dried fruits	Lbs.	71,431	34,261
Furniture	Cubic ft.	867	1,122
Malt liquor	Doz. qts.	2,919	1,943
Do.	Doz. pts.	2,569	1,396
Oil and varnish	Galls.	7,071	12,358
Paints	Lbs.	6,309	2,949
Rice	„	38,653	18,001
Spirits :			
Brandy	Galls.	17,094	15,567
Rum	„	16,444	9,458
Geneva	„	3,365	10,168
Starch	Lbs.	17,276	8,393
Sugar, raw	Cwts.	4,484	542
Tea	Lbs.	159,019	171,727
Tobacco	„	126,006	136,198

During the year 1879 there entered Tasmanian ports 705 vessels, the tonnage of which was 189,087, and the number of the crews 10,829. Of the vessels, 429 were sailing and 276 steam; 516 had cargoes and 189 were in ballast. Of those with cargoes 255 were sailing, 261 steamers; of those in ballast 174 were sailing, 15 steam. The total tonnage at Hobart Town was 104,362; at Launceston and sub-ports, 84,725.

The following was the tonnage from each country or part of the world:—

	Tons.
United Kingdom	7,987
Victoria	101,450
New South Wales	36,376
Queensland	1,462
South Australia	9,681
New Zealand	26,578
Mauritius	2,603
United States	633
Southern Whale Fisheries	2,317

The corresponding figures in regard to outward-bound vessels are given below:—

Entered outwards	Vessels	723
	Tons	192,808
	Crews	11,092
Comprising—Sailing vessels		440
Steam ditto		283
With cargoes		680
In ballast		43
Total tonnage at Hobart Town		104,381
Ditto Launceston		88,427

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As compared with the amount of shipping in the previous year, there was an increase on the

Tonnage inwards, of 30,024 or 18·87 per cent.
„ outwards, of 36,017 or 22·97 per cent.

The following was the tonnage entered and cleared at each port and sub-port in 1878 and 1879 :—

Entered.	1878.	1879.
Hobart Town - - - -	85,537	104,362
Launceston - - - - -	54,534	62,789
Ditto, Sub-ports :—		
Stanley - - - -	8,238	8,159
Wynyard - - - -	2,951	2,410
Ulverstone - - - -	4,451	4,977
Torquay - - - -	3,352	6,390

Cleared.	1878.	1879.
Hobart Town - - - -	82,499	104,381
Launceston - - - - -	55,372	64,945
Ditto, Sub-ports :—		
Stanley - - - -	8,011	8,424
Wynyard - - - -	2,824	2,429
Ulverstone - - -	4,663	6,239
Torquay - - - -	3,422	6,390

The increases on tonnage entered and cleared per cent. were :— Hobart Town, 24·22 ; Launceston, 16·22 ; Stanley, 2·05 ; Ulverstone, 23·06 ; Torquay, 88·66.

Thus the largest increase was at Torquay, nearly double ; the next largest at Hobart Town ; Ulverstone being third, and Launceston fourth ; while at Wynyard there was a decrease.

On the total tonnage inwards and outwards during the last 10 years the increase was 79·36 per cent.

In regard to nationality, the tonnage in 1879 stood thus :—

——	Inward.	Outward.
United Kingdom - - - -	9,692	10,286
Colonial - - - - -	178,144	181,271
Foreign :		
United States - - - -	385	385
German - - - - -	248	248
Norwegian - - - -	324	324
French - - - - -	294	294

There were on the shipping registers at the end of 1878, 217 vessels, measuring 20,104 tons ; at the end of 1879, 207 vessels, of 18,820 tons—a decrease of 10 vessels, of a tonnage of 1,284. Of the vessels in 1879, 15 were steamers, of 4,596 tons and 1,343 horse-power. The number was the same as in 1878.

On the tonnage of vessels built and sold out of the Colony in 1879 there was an increase of 152, but a decrease of two in the number.

The whale fisheries have been dwindling down in importance for many years. Ten years ago the number of vessels employed in them was 15, 1879 only 11; the tonnage in 1870, 3,446, in 1879, 3,156; the produce in 1870, 448 tuns sperm oil; in 1879 only about 269 tuns. The value of oil, which in 1870 was returned as 35,880*l.*, in 1879 had decreased to 13,425*l.*

The return of certain trades, manufactories, and works in operation in 1879 gives a total of 3,259, which is 41 more than in 1878—and that, notwithstanding that the total number at Hamilton was reduced from 97 to 52 (a difference of 45), the collector for 1878 having, as the present collector supposes, improperly included journeymen and workmen as well as masters.

The principal increases were these: agricultural implement makers, 4; boot and shoemakers, 11; brickmakers, 11; butchers, 30; cabinet-makers and joiners, 9; clothing factories, 3; ironmongers, 5; lime kilns, 3; pastrycooks and confectioners, 3; publicans, 29; saddle and harness makers, 5. The increase in general dealers is balanced by the decrease in groceries, and seems to be caused by a difference in classification.

The average rates of wages were generally lower in 1879 than in the previous year, but those of bricklayers, joiners, millers, saddlers, tanners, were higher, as were also those of shepherds, domestic servants (males), and among females, of general servants. The rates per acre paid to reapers were also higher.

The prices of most of the commodities at Hobart Town included in the returns do not vary much from year to year. The chief differences, as between the last two years were these,—

—		1878.						1879.					
		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Flour, fine	per ton	12	10	0 to	14	0	0	10	15	0 to	12	10	0
Wheat	per bush.	0	5	9 to	0	6	0	0	4	10 to	0	5	10
Barley	„	0	5	9 to	0	6	0			5*s.*			
Oats	„	0	4	3 to	0	4	9	0	3	0 to	0	3	6
Maize	„	0	6	6 to	0	7	0	0	5	0 to	0	5	6
Hay	per ton	6	0	0 to	7	0	0	5	5	0 to	6	0	0
Mutton	per lb.	0	0	4 to	0	0	6	0	0	3 to	0	0	5
Pork	„	0	0	6 to	0	0	9	0	0	6 to	0	0	7
Posts and Rails	per 100	1	12	0 to	1	15	0	1	10	0 to	1	13	0
Onions	per ton	6	10	0 to	20	0	0	5	10	0 to	8	10	0
Potatoes	„	1	10	0 to	5	5	0	4	10	0 to	6	0	0

Thus it appears that agricultural produce generally, with the exception of potatoes, was cheaper in the latter year, as were also posts and rails, other descriptions of timber being the same.

The contract prices of many articles were higher in 1879. Such were barley (pearl), brandy, butcher's meat, butter, candles, currants, eggs, flour, porter, oatmeal, rum, tea, tobacco. Those of oil (black), raisins, rice, sago, salt, soap, sugar, and port wine, on the other hand, were lower.

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Gold mining was never so productive as in 1879. The average number of persons employed in it during the year was 2,060 (nearly twice the number in 1878); the value of mining plant 60,200*l.* against 46,000*l.* in the previous year; the amount of gold produced—alluvial (estimated) 37,750 ounces, quartz 22,405 ounces, total 60,155 ounces; value 230,895*l.*, against 25,249 ounces, value 100,000*l.* in 1878. The average yield per ton from quartz was 1 oz. 8 dwts. 7 grs. which is the highest average in the last 10 years, the next highest being 1 oz. 8 dwts. 3 grs. in 1876; the quantity of stone crushed in 1879 being 15,834 tons, and in 1876 only 7,830.

The Commissioner of Gold Fields reports that from the commencement of the present year to the date of his writing (12th July), say six months, the yield of the gold mines was, quartz, 18,000 ounces; alluvial (estimated), 15,000 ounces. The value of both he places at 138,000*l.*, which, at the same rate, would be 276,000*l.* for the year, or about 46,000*l.* more than the value in 1879.

The following are some of the largest yields to the ton during the last year:—

Tasmania Company, Beaconsfield—

4 ozs. 7¼ dwts. from 270 tons of stone.
3 ozs. 3 dwts. 1½ grs. from 480 ditto.
2 ozs. 19 dwts. 14 grs. from 3,020 ditto, for half-year to 30th June.

New Chum Company—

3 ozs. 6 dwts. 20 grs. from 80 tons of stone.
5 ozs. 18 dwts. 6 grs. from 358 ditto.

In May last the latter company obtained an average of 4 ozs. 9 dwts. 21 grs.

The Tasmania Company is reported to have paid twenty dividends up to the end of May, amounting to 75,500*l.*,* and the New Chum Company five, amounting in the whole to 17,500*l.*

Coal mining did not flourish during the past year. The quantity of coal raised was 9,514 tons, against 12,311 in 1878. The only places where it was increased were Jerusalem and Tarleton. At New Town it diminished by nearly one-half.

In building stone there was a considerable increase, the quantities being, 1878, 88,350 cubic feet, and 800 tons; 1879, 123,221 feet, and 20 tons. There was also an additional quantity of material returned as "iron stone" or "bluestone," used for building purposes.

In lime and limestone there was also an increase in 1879. The quantities in 1878 were, lime 7,000 bushels, limestone 1,800 tons; in 1879, 12,900 bushels, and 1,824 tons and 7,000 cubic feet respectively.

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* Two other dividends have since been paid, making the whole amount 85,875*l.*

The production of slates had ceased in 1878; in 1879 it was resumed to the extent of 10,400.

The quantity of tin ore raised in 1879 was less than in the previous year, being 5,791 and 6,193 respectively; the smelted metal turned out being 4,440 and 4,162¾ tons in the same years. The decrease in 1879 was caused by the fall in the price.

FINANCE, &c.

The Consolidated Revenue (excluding loans) in 1879 was 375,367*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* The following table shows the revenue and its changes in the last five years, more (+) or less (—):—

	£		£
1875 - -	342,606		
1876 - -	327,016	—	15,590.
1877 - -	366,118	+	39,102.
1878 - -	385,936	+	19,818.
1879 - -	375,367	—	10,569.

In Customs duties there was a reduction in 1879 of 11,342*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*; in stamps, of 802*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*; in tolls, of 149*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*; in railway receipts, of 454*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.**; in rents of waste and mineral lands, of 846*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*; in other rents, of 482*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*; in reimbursements, of 3,989*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*; and in interest, of 694*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* On the other hand there were increases in the following items:—Publicans and other licenses; post office; telegraphs; probate duty; registration of dogs; rural police rate; fines, fees, &c.; sales of lands; and miscellaneous.

The expenditure (excluding that from loans) of the general government was approximately (estimating the outstanding liabilities at 8,500*l.*) 405,838*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, being 26,606*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* more than in 1878.

There appears a large increase under the head of "railways" of 31,192*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, but this is a mere matter of account. The interest (32,500*l.* per annum) paid to the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company having been charged in 1879 for the first time to current revenue. Deducting this 32,500*l.* the expenditure of 1879 would be less by 5,893*l.* than that of 1878.

There were also decreases in the disbursements for ecclesiastical, charitable institutions, gaols, and penal establishments, defences, lands and surveys, public works, interest, aid to road trusts and municipalities, and Scab Act fund; under all the other heads there were increases. That of 3,199*l.* on "miscellaneous" items was caused by expenses on account of the Sydney Exhibition, and by an excess of 2,372*l.* on interest on overdrawn accounts at the bank.

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* A discrepancy may be observed between items of revenue as stated by the Treasury and other departments, and also in the Treasury account current and decennial tables. These are thus explained:—The Treasury accounts being kept open for 12 months after the expiration of the year the amounts will vary according to the date to which they are made up.

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The state of the money market during the last year was very nearly the same as in 1878. The exchange with London was the same in the last ten months of both years. In January and February 1878, the banks bought mercantile bills at par and sold their own at ¾ per cent. premium. For the remainder of the year the rates were ¼ per cent. discount, and 1 per cent. premium respectively. The latter rates prevailed during the whole of 1879. The exchange with the other Colonies of the group continued unaltered through both years.

The rates of discount from 23 December 1878, on through the following year were 8 and 9 per cent. for bills of 95 days and over respectively; previously to that date bills of 95 days and under were negotiated at 7 per cent.

Interest on fixed deposits for 3, 6, and 12 months continued to be given at 4, 5, and 6 per cent., as in 1878. The maximum has since fallen to 5 per cent.

The banking returns show a steady increase of business in the past as compared with the previous year. The total assets in the last quarter of 1879 and 1878 were 2,158,200*l.* and 2,101,932*l.* respectively, and the liabilities, 2,121,129*l.* and 2,007,498*l.*; showing an increase of 56,268*l.* and 113,631*l.*, or 2·68 and 5·66 respectively. The specie and bullion increased in the same quarter of the two years from 302,712*l.* to 323,625*l.*; the debts due to the banks, from 1,648,980*l.* to 1,740,577*l.*; the notes in circulation from 122,588*l.* to 125,830*l.*; the bills in circulation, from 5,528*l.* to 7,093*l.*; and the deposits, from 1,873,004*l.* to 1,983,594*l.*

The business done by the savings' bank was somewhat less in 1879–80 than in the preceding year, the amount to credit of depositors on the last day of February standing thus:—1879, 308,389*l.*; 1880, 298,202. The following were the deposits and repayments in the course of the two years:—

	Deposits.	Repayments.
	£	£
1878–9 - - - - -	181,303	184,355
1879–80 - - - - -	174,925	185,112
Difference - - - - -	— 6,378	+ 757

The tendency no doubt was to transfer money from these to the ordinary banks, where a higher rate of interest (on fixed deposits) was obtainable.

The number of accounts open at the end of February was, however, greater in 1880 than in 1879, having increased from 12,764 to 13,128, the smaller class of depositors being more numerous in the later year. During the year 1879–80, 2,156 accounts were opened, and 1,792 closed; the corresponding numbers in the year before being 2,209 and 1,706 respectively.

The progress of the money order system has been more rapid than perhaps anything else connected with the Colony. Since its first complete year (1866) 14 years ago, the whole business, that is the orders issued and paid, taken together, has increased 474 per cent. as regards the number, and 394 per cent. as regards the amount.

The number of orders issued in 1879 was 17,065, amount 61,152*l.*; the number paid 11,024, amount 37,383*l.* The increase as between 1879 and 1878 was—

—	Issued.	Paid.
Number - - - - -	1,828	1,041
Amount - - - - -	£6,243	£2,265

The following figures show the number issued in the two years classified according to the places on which they were drawn :—

—	1879.	1878.
Stations within Tasmania - - -	7,798	6,763
On other Colonies - - - -	7,694	7,040
On United Kingdom - - -	1,573	1,434

The largest increase was on the Tasmanian Orders; for while the others were only about 9 per cent. in excess, these were about 15.

The public debt on 31st December 1879, was 1,786,800*l.* (not including 8,600*l.* authorised but not raised), having increased by 48,300*l.* during the year. The rate per head was 15*l.* 17*s.* against 15*l.* 16*s.* 11¾*d.* in the previous year. The debt consisted of debentures to the amount of 1,754,800*l.*, and Treasury bills to the amount of 32,000*l.* During the year 30,300*l.* was borrowed on debentures for public works and immigration purposes, and 25,000*l.* on Treasury bills to meet charges on the consolidated revenue; and 7,000*l.* of Treasury bills were paid off. The rates of interest were 977,600*l.* at 6 per cent., 300,000*l.* at 4 per cent., and the rest at 5 per cent. The charge for interest during the year amounted to 91,837*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*

Of the whole revenue of the Government in 1879, 236,404*l.*, or nearly 63 per cent. was raised by taxation from the following sources :—Customs duties, licences, stamps, probate duty, police rate, tolls, and contributions from sheep owners for the purposes of the Scab Act. The rate per head of taxation for the general government was 2*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, against 2*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.* in 1878.

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The local taxation amounted to 79,586*l.*, or 14*s.* 3¾*d.* per head, against 14*s.* 8¼*d.* in 1878.

The total amount borne by the taxpayer for all purposes was 2*l.* 16*s.* 9¾*d.* per head, against 3*l.* 0*s.* 3¾*d.* in the preceding year.

ESTABLISHMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS MAINTAINED OR ASSISTED BY GOVERNMENT.

The number of post offices and receiving houses was 198 in 1879, 191 in 1878; the number of persons employed increased from 301 to 308; the number of miles travelled by mail conveyance from 621,768 to 658,040.

The following was the number of letters, packets, and newspapers which passed through the post office in the last two years:—

		Years.	Number.	Increase.
Letters -	Inland -	1879 - -	1,774,207	120,167
		1878 - -	1,654,040	
	Ship - -	1879 - -	691,902	32,141
		1878 - -	659,761	
Packets	Inland -	1879 - -	70,470	6,146
		1878 - -	64,324	
	Ship - -	1879 - -	57,876	—
		1878 - -	58,309	
Newspapers	Inland -	1879 - -	1,429,341	95,660
		1878 - -	1,333,681	
	Ship - -	1879 - -	611,561	22,342
		1878 - -	589,219	

The increase upon the total numbers was,—upon letters, 6·58 per cent.; upon packets, 4·66; and upon newspapers, 6·14.

The revenue from the post office is estimated to have been 17,800*l.* in 1879, or 800*l.* more than in 1878; the expenditure 26,675*l.*, or 454*l.* more.

In the works of the electric telegraph there was a slight falling off in 1879 as compared with that of the preceding year. The number of stations increased from 59 to 62; the miles of line from 692 to 731; the miles of single wire from 910 to 949, and the number of persons employed from 76 to 79; but notwithstanding the number of paid messages declined from 69,197 to 65,189, an increase being found only on the unpaid, which rose from 21,116 to 26,643. The messages paid and unpaid between stations within the Colony had a small increase of 11, while those between this Colony and other countries had a decrease of 1,492. On the revenue of the department there was a decrease of 51*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*; but on the expenditure an increase of 178*l.* 2*s.*

If we compare the results of last year's working with those of 1877, they will show a very considerable improvement, and so with any other year. Ten years ago there were only 13 stations, 199 miles of wire, and only 20,536 messages were transmitted. Since that year the figures have continuously increased, with the single exception of 1879.

The results of the traffic on the Launceston and Western Railway in 1879 were not quite as favourable as in the previous year. The harvest of 1878–9 was below the average, and this fact must have had considerable influence on the amount of goods requiring conveyance. The crops in the present year having been exceptionally good, a corresponding increase in railway traffic in the present year may be expected.

The total train miles run on this railway in 1879, (100,624), was 1,088 under those in 1878. On the tonnage of goods, (16,363), there was a decrease of 1,058; on the number of passengers, of 3,216; on the total amount received (21,583*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*), of 606*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*; and on the receipts per train mile (4*s.* 3·4*d.*) of 0·9*d.*

On the working expenses (18,699*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*) there was an increase of 1,018*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, being per mile open 18*s.* 2*d.*, per train mile 2·9*d.*

The profit from the railway in 1879, was 2,884*l.*, against 4,508*l.* in 1878, the proportion of working expenses to gross earnings being 86·82 per cent., against 79·68 in the previous year.

The passengers were 103,256 and 106,472 respectively; the average distance travelled by each 17·63 and 17·39 miles; the average rate per passenger 1*s.* 11·43*d.* and 1*s.* 11·10*d.*; per mile 1·33*d.* and 1·32*d.*; the tonnage of goods 16,363 and 17,421 in 1879 and 1878 respectively; average distance per ton, 27·36 and 29·11; rate per ton, 6*s.* 3·55*d.* and 6*s.* 9·02*d.*; per mile, 2·76*d.* and 2·78*d.*

The average train mileage in 1879 was 2,236, against 2,260 in 1878.

The gros earnings per mile open were 479·6*l.* and 493*l.* respectively; the working expenses per train mile 3*s.* 8·6*d.* and 3*s.* 5·7*d.*; and per mile open, 360·4*l.* and 342·2*l.*

The receipts of the Marine Boards in 1879 were 13,464*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*, being 1,202*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* less than in 1878. The expenditure 14,720*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* was also less by 1,007*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* The Circular Head, Mersey, and Table Cape Boards had, however, a somewhat larger revenue, with a lessened expenditure.

The light-house fund was also larger, being 6,627*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* in 1879, and 6,153*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* in 1878, with a larger balance at the end of the year. The outlay in 1879 was 5,341*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*

In regard to the salmon and trout breeding establishment I have

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only to remark that the work of distributing ova and fry still goes on, as the following statement will show:—

RETURN of the DISTRIBUTION of OVA and FRY from the BREEDING PONDS, RIVER PLENTY, during 1879.

OVA.

Brown Trout.

South Australia - - - -	2,000
New South Wales - - -	5,000
Victoria - - - -	11,000
	18,000

FRY.

Brown Trout.

South Esk River, near Malahide - -	500
Streams in vicinity of George's Bay	900
North-west coast - - -	900
Sorell - - - - -	300
Ross (Macquarie River) - - -	300
	2,900

RECEIPTS.

	£
Sale of ova - - - - -	90
Salmon and trout licenses, Season 1879–80 -	156
	246

A salmon of 7¼ lbs. weight was captured in the Derwent in December last, and brown trout of 18, 22, and 22½ lbs. were taken in other rivers during the past season. In February last a fish of 28 lbs. was found dead in the Huon river. It was pronounced to be a salmonoid of some kind, but whether *trutta*, *fario*, or *salar*, unfortunately could not be determined, in consequence of its having been too much knocked about.

The returns of the establishments maintained by Government may be thus summarised:—

General Hospitals.

Average daily number 134, being about 1½ more than in 1878. Cases treated—In-patients, 1,640; out-patients, 2,528. There was a diminution of 15 in the in-patients, and of 2,127 in the out-patients, the latter being the result of an improved system of dealing with such cases.

Towards the end of November a hospital for "contagious diseases" was established at the Cascades. The average number

of patients during the part of the year in which it was in existence was 11½.

The great proportion of the in-patients in the general hospitals in 1879, was between 15 and 25 years of age; the next largest number being between 55 and 65; then comes 45 to 55; 65 and upwards; 25 to 35; then 35 to 45.

The birth-places are not given for Launceston. At Hobart Town 504 were born in the Colonies, 340 in England and Wales, 160 in Ireland, 53 in Scotland, and smaller numbers in other places.

Pauper Establishments.

Average daily number 898,* against 854 in 1878. The greater portion of these paupers was of 65 years of age and upwards. As to education, 800 could read and write; 729 could not read, and 234 could read only; while 5 were of superior education. Birth-places: 1,125 England and Wales; 441 Ireland; 95 Scotland; 57 Australian Colonies; 50 other countries. The Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children was discontinued in the course of the year, the remainder of the children being boarded out.

Hospitals for the Insane.

Average daily number 300, being 2 more than in 1878. The average age of patients at New Norfolk was 46, and at the Cascades, 58½.

Gaols and Penal Establishments.

Average daily number 350, being about seven fewer than in 1878. The average age of male prisoners at Hobart Town was 42½; of females, 37 nearly; at Launceston, both sexes, 43. Of the whole number received during the year 1,053 could read and write; 285 could read only; 629 could not read; and 7 were of superior education. Of the inmates of the gaols, 717 were born in England and Wales; 595 in the Australian Colonies; 461 in Ireland; 177 in Scotland; and 24 in other countries. The number of prisoners convicted once before was 365; of those who had been convicted twice, 219; and of those who had brought themselves still more frequently within reach of the law, 998. In 1878 out of 1,616 prisoners received into the gaols, 1,272 had been convicted before; in 1879, out of 1,743 1,582 had been previously convicted, and the proportion of previous convictions, which in 1878 was 78 per cent., in 1879 rose to 90 per cent.

Cost of Establishments.

The hospitals (including that for contagious diseases) entailed a gross expenditure of 10,005*l.* (omitting fractions), a net ex-

* Excluding those at the Cascades, that establishment having been broken up on 30th June.

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penditure of 9,201*l.*; the average cost per head per annum being, at Hobert Town, gross 78*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, net 72*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, at Launceston, gross, 67*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, net 61*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

The hospitals for the insane cost 9,921*l.* gross, 8,137*l.* net. The gross average per head per annum was 28*l.* 14*s.* 4¼*d.* at New Norfolk, and 31*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* at the Cascades; the net being 22*l.* 3*s.* 8¼*d.* and 30*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* respectively.

The cost at the different pauper establishments was very nearly the same per head, the general average per annum being, gross 13*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, net 12*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* The total cost was 11,683*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* gross, 11,242*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* net.

The gross cost of the gaols and penal establishments was 10,935*l.*, net 8,314*l.*; the average per head per annum being 31*l.* 3*s.* 11¼*d.* and 23*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.* respectively.

The expense of all these establishments was 42,545*l.*, against which there was a set-off of 5,649*l.* received for labour of inmates, sale of produce, &c., leaving their actual cost 36,895*l.* On the latter there was a reduction of about 2,000*l.* as compared with the year 1878.

Among the establishments assisted by the Government it may be sufficient to mention the ragged schools and benevolent societies. The ragged schools had 601 children on the books (60 less than in the previous year), with an average daily attendance of 435, or 19 more, showing that the schools were in a more satisfactory condition.

The amount of relief distributed through the benevolent societies was materially less in 1879 than in 1878; the numbers in those years being—

	Permanent.	Occasional.
1878 - - - - -	199	655
1879 - - - - -	184	558
Decrease - - -	15	97

The whole of the assisted charitable and philanthropic institutions received from the Government in 1879, 2,463*l.*, from private subscriptions 894*l.*, from other sources 596*l.*

Besides the demands upon the Treasury for charitable purposes already mentioned, there was disbursed in 1879 a sum of 9,633*l.* for "out-door relief," and 2,031*l.* for destitute children boarded out, making the whole gross charge upon the public funds for hospitals, paupers, ragged schools, and out-door relief, 56,672*l.*

It should be remarked that, while the expenditure on boarded out children was greater in 1879 than in 1878, in consequence of the abolition of the Queen's Asylum, the amount required for out-door relief was not so large by 222*l.*

The return of volunteers shows a total of all ranks on 31st December last, of 714; 313 composing the artillery, and 401 the rifle regiments. The rank and file are set down as 553.

The road trusts had 4,079 miles of road under their care; they received from rates and tolls 14,321*l.*, from Government 13,140*l.*; the total amount at their disposal (including balances) in the year was 37,305*l.*, and their expenditure was 31,472*l.* In the great majority of cases the amount of assessment was 1*s.* in the pound. One trust assessed itself at 2*d.*, one at 3*d.*, and one 9*d.*, and six trusts adopted 6*d.* as their rate.

The municipalities had a total revenue of 86,418*l.*, of which 44,793*l.* was derived from rates, 4,682*l.* from government, 3,188*l.* from licences and dog tax. Their expenditure was 92,996*l.* The amount of their assessment ranged from 7*d.* to 1*s.* in the pound, including police rate. Hobart Town was taxed for municipal purposes 2*s.* 1*d.* in the pound, independently of water rate, which was regulated according to assessment of the premises; Launceston the same, with 1*s.* 2*d.* for water rate, making together 3*s.* 3*d.*

Hobart Town had a debt of 89,626; Launceston, of 90,216*l.*; Deloraine, of 1,500*l.*; and Westbury, of 1,800*l.*

The annual value of property throughout the Colony, as shown by the rolls in 1879, was 683,077*l.*; the value in the two principal towns being 184,300*l.*, in the rural municipalities, 368,565*l.*, and in the police districts, 130,212*l.* As compared with the value in the previous year, there was an increase of 17,388*l.*; and in 1870, an increase of 72,853*l.*, or about 12 per cent.

CROWN LANDS, AGRICULTURE, &c.

The extent of land held under lease from the Government for ordinary purposes at the end of 1879, was 2,023,013 acres, the rental of which was 8,360*l.* As compared with the corresponding figures in the previous year, there was an increase of 20,141, or nearly 10 per cent. in the acreage, but a decrease of 348*l.* or 4 per cent. in the rental.

The area of land leased during the year 1879 was very much smaller than in the year before, being 248,594 and 91,349 acres respectively.

The quantity of land sold was larger in 1879 than in the previous years, as the following figures will show :—

	Country Lots.	Town Lots.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1879 - - - -	52,880	724	53,604
1878 - - - -	44,933	1,309	46,242

The increase on the total sales being 7,362 acres; and on the country lots 7,947 acres; there being a decrease on the town lots of 585 acres. The amount for which the land was sold was

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76,263*l.* in 1879 and 74,748*l.* in 1878; and the average price per acre:—

	Country Lands.	Town Lands.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1879 - - - - -	1 6 1	10 1 5
1878 - - - - -	1 9 2	7 1 1

For town lands the demand seems to have been very brisk. At Launceston the average price was over 28*l.* per acre; at Ross, 18*l.*; at St. Helen's, nearly 38*l.*; at Taranna, about 60*l.*; and at Waratah, 75*l.*

During the year 1879, there were granted to persons who fulfilled the conditions of the Immigration Act, 897 acres, against 1,054 acres in 1878.

The quantity of land alienated by sale or free grant up to the end of the past year was 4,193,445 acres, leaving 12,584,555 acres still unalienated and in possession of the State.

There were 42 gold mining leases applied for in the past year, and 44 were executed. At the end of the year 77 were in force, having an aggregate area of 757 acres. In 1878, 86 leases were applied for, 49 executed; there were in force on 31st December, 104, with an area of 1,070 acres.

In the business licences and miners' rights issued in 1879 there was a considerable increase, as the following comparison will show:—

	Business Licences.	Miners' Rights.
1879 - - - - -	72	2,690
1878 - - - - -	42	1,786

The amount received on account of auriferous lands in 1879, was 280*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* less than in 1878, the figures being 2,351*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* and 2,070*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* respectively.

In regard to "mineral leases" there was also a considerable decrease in 1879. In that year 67 were granted for tin mining, 4 for iron, and 1 for coal, the aggregate area being 3,145 acres, and the rental 746*l.*

The number of such leases in force on 31st December 1879 was 392, the area 25,144 acres, and the rental 6,098*l.* Of these 354 were for tin, 11 for copper, 9 for iron, 6 for coal, 5 for slate, 3 for bismuth, 2 for galena, 1 for lime, and 1 for shale. As compared with 1878, there was an increase on the number of leases of 62, but a decrease of 3,230 in the acreage, and of 729*l.* in the rental.

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The agricultural and live stock returns for the year ended 31st March last year were published in the "Gazette" of June 1, 10 days earlier than they have ever been published before. They might have appeared still earlier, but for the want of information in respect to one property at Westbury in consequence of the absence of the owner, and for some delay in regard to the district of Sorell caused by the collector waiting for the completion of the threshing, in order to obtain the exact result. After waiting, however, for a week, I obtained an estimate of the wheat at Sorell remaining unthreshed, and published the tables in the next week's "Gazette," with a note explaining that they were subject to future revision. It appeared, on careful consideration, better to adopt this plan than to hold them back until they could be made absolutely correct, inasmuch as it is of more importance to the agriculturalist that the information should be afforded as early as possible, before he puts in his crops, than that it should be minutely accurate. A near approximation is sufficient for his purpose. As republished in the present volume, the tables have been revised and corrected.

The following was the average of land under cultivation in 1879–80 :—

		Acres.	Acres.
Cereals	Wheat	45,191	
	Barley	6,571	
	Oats	37,259	
	Rye	110	
			89,131
Legumes	Pease	5,958	
	Beans	353	
	Tares	186	
			6,497
Root crops	Potatoes	9,762	
	Turnips, carrots, mangel wurzel, and onions	3,370	
			13,132

	Acres.
Artificial grasses (seed)	3,553
Hay	35,638
Hops	578
Other crops	273
Gardens and orchards	6,559
In green forage	1,198
Total in crop	156,559
In artificial pasture	117,666
Under bare fallow	26,287
All other cultivated land	66,399
Total under cultivation	366,911

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Included in the above were 4,431 acres of land newly broken up, and 6,885 under rotation of crops.

The proportion per cent. of each crop to the total land in crop was as under:—

Wheat	28·86	
Barley	4·20	
Oats	23·80	
Rye	·07	
	——	56·93
Pease	3·80	
Beans	·23	
Tares	·12	
	——	4·15
Potatoes	6·24	
Other root crops	2·15	
	——	8·39
Artificial grasses	2·27	
Hay	22·76	
Hops	·37	
Other crops	·17	
Gardens and orchards	4·19	
In green forage	·77	
	100·00	

The differences (omitting some of the small crops) in the acreage of 1879–80, as compared with that of the previous year, were these:—

Wheat	3,201 less.
Barley	2,531 more.
Oats	8,457 more.
Pease	1,258 more.
Potatoes	1,683 more.
Other root crops	419 more.
Hay	1,705 more.
Hops	82 less.
Gardens and orchards	267 more.

On the total land in crop there was an increase of 12,762 acres, the acreage being the largest since 1870–1; on permanent artificial grasses, of 794 acres; on fallow land, of 2,181 acres; and on the total land under cultivation, of 11,508 acres, the area being the largest in the decennium. In land classed as "all other cultivated land" there was a decrease of 4,229 acres.

Thus, although less wheat and hops were sown, there was more land in almost every other description of crop; and the increase in all these crops is very much greater than it was in grasses.

The gross produce of wheat was 1,042,999 bushels (about $9\frac{1}{10}$ bushels per head of the probable population in the present year); of barley, 182,753; of oats, 1,065,847; of potatoes, 31,103 tons; of hay, 54,079 tons; of hops, 738,616 lbs. The barley, oat, and

hay crops were the largest in the last 10 years; the hop and flax crops the smallest.

The average yield of wheat, oats, pease, and hay was the largest in the last 10 years. That of the principal crops per acre was as follows:—

Wheat - - - -	23·08 bushels.
Barley - - - -	27·83 bushels.
Oats - - - -	28·60 bushels.
Potatoes - - -	3·18 tons.
Hay - - - -	1·51 tons.
Hops - - - -	1,280 lbs.

Comparing the average produce in 1879–80 by districts, we have these results:—Wheat, maximum, 29·42 bushels, at Fingal; minimum, 14·89, at George Town: barley, maximum, 34·85, at Richmond; minimum, 15·75, at George Town: oats, maximum, 43·50, at Campbell Town; minimum, 17·17, at George Town: potatoes, maximum, 4·73 tons, at Fingal; minimum, 2·13, at Campbell Town and Bothwell: hay, maximum, 2·21 tons, at Emu Bay; minimum, 1·08, at New Norfolk: hops, maximum, 1,465 lbs., at Glenorchy; minimum, 422 lbs., at Brighton.

Reference has already been made to the prices of some articles of agricultural produce at Hobart Town. It may be added that the mean of the prices returned for the whole Colony was:—Wheat, 4*s.* 3½*d.* per bushel; barley, 4*s.* 4¼*d.*; oats, 2*s.* 0¼*d.*; potatoes, 3*l.* 13*s.* per ton; hay, 2*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*; hops. 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.; apples, 4*s.* 4*d.* per bushel; pears, 3*s.* 10¾*d.*

In the use of machinery for agricultural purposes there is the same advance which has been noticed on former occasions. In steam engines, chaff-cutters (worked by horse or steam), cultivators, corn-crushers, hay-rakes (horse), horse-hoes, and similar implements, lift and force pumps, mowing machines, reapers, and mowers combined, and strippers, there were considerable increases. The farmers are apparently quite alive to the advantages of the repears and binders, which have recently been perfected, 47 of these machines being returned in the present year. Of course the success of these tends to displace the old reaping machines.

The area of wheat land reaped by machine in the past season was 14,180 acres, and by hand 31,011; the proportions being 31 and 69 per cent. respectively. On the former there was an increase as compared with the preceding year of 279 acres. With the present improved machines there will probably be a much larger increase in the coming season. In that of 1869–70 the area reaped by machines was only 3,685 acres; so that it has nearly quadrupled since that year.

The following information relating to agriculture in the year ending 31 March 1880, in the three mainland colonies of Victoria,

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New South Wales, and South Australia, the returns for which have been received, may be useful:—

COLONIES.	Area under				Average produce per acre.			
	Wheat.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Wheat.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Bush.	Bush.	Tons.	Tons.
Victoria - - -	707,738	167,721	41,600	201,169	13·3	24·0	4·0	1·5
New South Wales -	233,368	23,883	19,271	112,414	15·5	22·2	3·2	1·4
South Australia -	1,458,096	4,117	7,320	265,067	9·8	15·0	3·8	1·1

The increases in the acreage, as compared with that of the preceding year, were,—

Victoria:—Wheat, 16,116; oats, 33,293; potatoes, 5,073; hay, 28,370.

New South Wales:—Wheat, 116; oats, 1,754; potatoes, 2,546; hay, 8,318.

South Australia:—Wheat, 152,245; oats, 1,186; potatoes, 1,922; hay, 46,708.

The crop of wheat in Victoria was a fair average, but about 50 per cent. more than in the year before; that of oats, potatoes, and hay was exceptionally large.

The yield of wheat in New South Wales was about 1 bushel, and that of oats about 2 bushels in excess.

In South Australia all the above crops were more abundant in the last season. For two years previously the wheat crop had been deficient.

Among the minor crops in Victoria were hops, which covered 260 acres in 1879–80, against 203 in the previous year, and produced 2,528 and 1,168 cwts. in the two years respectively.

The following was the number of live stock in the Colony (not including the islands in Bass' Straits) on 31st March last:—Horses, 24,593; horned cattle, 129,317; sheep, 1,835,970; goats, 2,278; mules, 4; asses, 11; pigs, 38,610. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase in horses of 486; in horned cattle of 3,041, and in asses of 3. In sheep there was a decrease of 2,861; in goats of 89, in mules of 5, and in pigs of 985.

To every head of the mean population there were on 31st March:—Horses, 0·22; horned cattle, 1·15; sheep, 16·39; goats, 0·02; pigs, 0·34. If, therefore, an equal distribution of the live stock had been made on this basis, every man, woman, and child would have had a small flock of 16 sheep, one head of cattle, and about a seventh share in a second, about a fifth share of a horse, and about the third share of a pig; while 50 persons would have rejoiced in the joint possession of a goat.

The imports of sheep in 1879 were 13,132, against 10,980 in 1878; and of horned cattle 1,476, against 1,347.

The number of animals slaughtered at the public slaughter-houses in Hobart Town and Launceston in 1879 was:—Sheep, 94,171; cattle, 8,084; pigs, 4,968. We have no means of ascertaining the number slaughtered in the country districts, inasmuch as there are no public abattoirs there, and consequently no information on the subject is available. There was an incease in the sheep of 6,674, in the cattle of 45, but a decrease in the pigs of 724.

The number of persons who washed their sheep in warm water in 1878 and 1879 was returned as 19 and 60; and the number who sheared in the grease 1,131 and 1,352 respectively. There was also a corresponding increase in the number of persons furnishing returns, which was as follows:—

		1878.	1879.
Those from whom were obtained -	Returns of cultivation and live stock jointly.	6,614	6,866
	Returns of live stock only -	1,074	1,116

The collectors in their reports for the most part speak favourably of the last season's crops, but refer to the low prices of produce. Potatoes, however, in several districts suffered from drought or grub, and mangolds from drought. The district of Russell seems to have been unfortunate. Not only did the crops fall below what was expected, but they were destroyed by parrots and caterpillars. In the Portland district satisfactory progress was being made. Sheep and cattle were increasing, new land was being taken up, scrub burnt off, and land laid down in grass. The advantages of a rotation of crops and of fallowing were becoming better understood, and in some parts artificial manures were being more largely used. In the district of Russell, we are informed, guano and bone dust were used "in quantities exceeding anything of the kind observable in previous years." The report from Hamilton speaks of a "marked improvement in farming." Underground drainage is mentioned only in reference to the district of Russell, where it is said to have been tried, in a few instances, on a small scale, by means of pipes, "with gratifying results."

Law, Crime, &c.

There were committed in 1879, 114 persons, being 5 more than in the preceding year. The males were 91, the females 15, or less than-one sixth. In regard to their civil condition, 81 had been, up to the time of their commitment, always free; 29 were free by servitude, 2 were holding conditional pardons, and 2 were under sentence.

So many persons had not previously been committed since 1874.

The number of indictments and informations preferred in the superior courts of the Colony was 105, and of persons tried, 96;

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which is 19 more than in 1878, and is the largest number since 1873. Of the cases tried, 35 were for offences against the person, 37 for offences against property, and 24 for other offences; 75 of them were felonies, 21 misdemeanors; 67 or 70 per cent. were convicted; but none were executed. It is worthy of note that, while the convictions for offences against persons and property were very nearly the same in 1879 as in 1875 (a difference of only one more of the former) those for other offences have very seriously increased, the numbers being, 1875, 3; 1876, 1; 1877, 6; 1878, 6; 1879, 20. The cases discharged or acquitted in 1879 were 29, precisely the same number as in 1875.

The cases dealt with by magistrates in 1879 were 8,709 in number, or 808 more than in 1878. The number convicted (including lunatics, but not orders for payment of money) was 5,556, or 591 more.

Including the cases which resulted only in orders for the payment of money (such as some under the Masters and Servants' Act, the Indigent Persons Maintenance Act, &c.) the convictions were 7,061, being 81 per cent. of the number dealt with; 387 or 5·48 per cent. being offences against the person; 679, or 9·62 per cent., being offences against property; and 5,995, or 84·90 per cent., offences of all other kinds.

The number discharged or acquitted in the lower courts was 1,538, or 17·66 per cent. of the whole number of persons proceeded against.

The total number of persons reported to the police during the year was 11,047, of whom 636 were, from want of evidence, or other causes, not prosecuted.

The persons convicted were thus punished:—By fine, 2,750; by imprisonment, in lieu of fine or surety, 1,454; by peremptory imprisonment, 964; 76 were bound over with or without sureties; 1,505 were ordered to pay moneys (for rates, support of relatives, &c.), and 278 though convicted, were suffered to go unpunished. Thirty-four were found to be insane, and are therefore not included in the "convicted."

On looking more closely into the return of cases brought before the magistrates, and comparing the particulars with those of previous returns, my attention was arrested by the increase in the numbers of certain offences, all referable more or less directly to a common origin, namely, idle, dissolute, unruly conduct, what is commonly known as "larrikinism." For the last three years the comparison stands thus:—

	1879.	1878.	1877.
Rape	27	8	4
Ditto, assault with intent to commit	6	1	—
Indecent assaults	20	18	12
Unnatural offences	9	1	4
Ditto, assault with intent to commit	—	3	1
Drunkenness	1,504	1,374	1,345
Obscene, &c. language or behaviour	564	479	577

The civil business of the courts was greater in 1879 than in previous years; indeed there is hardly anything in which the Colony seems to have made greater progress than in litigation. The following are the figures for 1870 and 1879 respectively :—

	1870.	1879.
Summonses issued - - - -	2,934	4,008
Causes tried - - - - -	1,439	2,141
	£	£
Amount sued for - - - -	14,222	24,967
Amount of verdicts obtained - -	7,233	13,165

The civil cases (8) tried before the Supreme Court in its ordinary jurisdiction, however, were only half as many as they were in 1878. The only other year in the decennium when they were as few was 1876.

Three petitions (for dissolution of marriage) were presented to the Supreme Court in its matrimonial jurisdiction in 1879, being one more than in 1878 ; and three protection orders were granted.

Probates and letters of administration to the number of 148 were granted in 1879, the value of the property being sworn under 312,957*l.* In 1878 the number was 142, the value of property 253,770*l.*

Fourteen persons were adjudicated bankrupts in 1879, and 52 distressed debtors presented petitions for liquidation by arrangement. In the former there was an increase, as compared with the previous year of 1 ; in the latter, of 12. The voluntary bankruptcies had not been so numerous since 1870.

The total number of mortgages registered in 1879 was greater, although the value of the properties was smaller, than in 1878. Under the new, or "Torrens" system, there was an increase in both. The increase in value of mortgages under the latter since 1870 was 173 per cent.

The numbers and amounts in the two years were :—

	Number.	Amount.
1879.		£
Under old system - - - -	452	248,052
Ditto new system - - - -	269	126,355
	721	374,407
1878.		
Under old system - - - -	421	284,245
Ditto new system - - - -	249	112,994
	670	397,239

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There was also an increase in other transactions of the Lands Titles' Office, as well as in mortgages, as will be seen from the figures which follow :—

—	No. of Transactions.	Amount.	Area.
		£	Acres.
1879 - - -	1321	426,595	157,138
1878 - - -	1276	369,474	145,398

The value in 1879 was more than three times that of 1870.

Bills of sale were registered in 1879 to the number of 230, and renewals 67, the amounts secured by both being 97,141*l.* There was an increase of 26 and 27 in the numbers respectively, and of 22,367*l.* in the amount, as compared with the preceding year. The amount in 1879 was the largest in the ten years, the next largest being 92,680*l.* in 1872.

The grant deeds enrolled in 1879 were 337, being 40 fewer than in 1878. These increased from 260 in 1871 to 650 in 1874, fell off to 364 in 1877, and rose to 377 in 1878.

The inquests in 1879 (118), were fewer than in any other year of the decennium, the nearest number being 126, in 1876. There were 16 children under 7, 8 from 7 to 16, 53 persons between 16 and 60, and 41 above 60. The finding of the juries was murder in 3 cases, manslaughter in 2, suicide in 3, accidental death in 44, "found dead" in 18, excessive drinking in 4, disease aggravated by neglect in 1, and in 43 cases the causes are not particularised.

EDUCATION, &c.

There were 171 schools under the Board of Education in 1879, being 7 more than in 1878. These were conducted by 138 male and 172 female teachers, pupil-teachers, and paid monitors. They had 12,652 distinct scholars on the rolls during the year, the average number of scholars on the rolls being 8,520, and the average number in daily attendance 6,203. There was an increase as compared with the preceding year of 199 distinct scholars on the rolls, of 223 on the average on the rolls, and of 171 on the average daily attendance.

The amount of pecuniary aid granted for primary education from the Treasury in 1879 was 15,951*l.*, being at the rate of 2*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.* per head per annum for the average daily attendance. The amount received from parents for school fees was 6,148*l.* Adding the cost of administration and inspection, the whole expenditure for these schools from public funds was 17,888*l.*, or 2*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* per head; the contributions from parents being 19*s.* 9¾*d.* per head.

There were 13 exhibitions tenable at superior schools awarded by the Board and Council of Education in 1879, costing 986*l.*

The Tasmanian Council of Education expended 2,050*l.* in discharging its functions in regard to higher education, by granting the degree of Associate of Arts, and conferring scholarships tenable at approved universities. Last year a new feature was introduced into the system by the establishment of two minor scholarships, of 40*l.* each per annum, to enable students who have taken the Associate's degree to pursue their studies until they are in a position to present themselves for examination for the Tasmanian scholarships. These minor scholarships fill up an hiatus which previously existed between the two ends of the educational chain. There is nothing now to prevent anyone who possesses the requisite ability and energy from rising from the lowest class of a school under the Board of Education to the highest honours which the principal universities of the United Kingdom can confer.

It should be mentioned, to the honour of our educational institutions, that exhibitions are now awarded to girls as well as boys. Five such exhibitions were awarded last year. Allowances are also made to country exhibitioners, to enable them to pursue their studies in the chief towns.

Fourty-four friendly societies filed returns for the past year, against 35 in the year before. They had an aggregate of 4,107 members; their receipts amounted to 11,912*l.*; their expenditure to 9,996*l.*; and they had 30,849*l.* of accumulated capital. Of these 4,107 members, 1,593 belonged to the Manchester Unity, 184 to the Ancient and Independent Order of Odd Fellows, 639 to the Rechabites, and 442 to the Foresters.

Vital Statistics.

During the past year 3,564 children were born and registered, being 62 more than in 1878. The rate per 1,000 of mean population was 32·04, being 0·23 per 1,000 lower than in 1878, but higher than in any other year in the last decennium.

Of the children born 1,790 were females and only 1,774 males. Thus the number of females exceeded that of males. This is a very remarkable circumstance, which, as far as I am aware, has happened only five times in the history of the colony,—in 1879, 1873, 1852, 1841, and 1839. In 1879 the births of male children were to those of female in 99·11 to 100.

The deaths of children under 1 year of age in 1879 were 384, being 10·77 per cent. of the births, which is rather higher than the corresponding proportion of deaths (10·71) in 1878.

The marriages in 1879 were 804, against 866 in 1878,—a decrease of 62. Of this decrease 35, or more than one half occurred among the Independents, or those who were married according to their rites; 15 among adherents of the Church of England; 7 among those of the Church of Rome; while the

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Baptists and the "Christians" had each four, and the Free Church of Scotland three, fewer.

The marriage rate in 1879 was 7·23 per 1,000—fewer than in 1877 and 1878, but higher than in all the other years of the decennium.

The number of deaths at all ages registered as having occurred in 1879 was 1,688—a reduction of 12 on the number (1,701) of ascertained deaths in the previous year.

The death rate in 1879 was 15·18 per 1,000, being ·49 per 1,000 lower than in the previous year. The rate has not been so low since 1873.

The rate which the deaths at each age bore to the deaths at all known ages registered in or for 1879 was as under:—

	Per cent.		Per cent.
0— 1	22·76	40—50	5·45
1— 5	8·18	50—60	8·42
5—10	3·32	60—70	14·94
10—20	5·27	70—80	14·64
20—30	5·93	80—90	6·05
30—40	4·03	90—100	1·01

Here we observe the small proportion (as compared with other countries) of infants under one year, and the large proportion of aged persons, of 60 and upwards—17 being registered as between 90 and 100.

The mortality is usually greatest in Tasmania in the first or third quarter of the year, the fourth being decidedly the healthiest. Last year the greatest number of deaths occurred in the third; the first quarter being next in order of mortality. In 1878 the first quarter was the most fatal, the second next.

The following were the proportions per cent. of each class of diseases to the total specified diseases in the last two years:—

	1879.	1878.
I. Zymotic	17·78	17·63
II. Constitutional	11·99	13·11
III. Local	42·30	41·63
IV. Developmental	22·02	21·26
V. Violent	5·91	6·37
	100·00	100·00

There was very little difference in the relative proportions. The zymotic were among those that were in excess.

In the zymotic class, scarlatina caused two deaths in 1879, against seven in 1878; diphtheria 51, or two more; quinsy, croup, and whooping cough were more fatal in 1879, the deaths from these three being 42, against 15 in 1878. Typhoid and other

fevers of the same type caused two deaths fewer, erysipelas, four more, influenza and other like diseases 10 more; rheumatism, 12 more; other diseases of the zymotic class one more. Dysentery, diarrhœa, and cholera had a much lower mortality, the numbers in the two years being 82 and 111 respectively. The other diseases of this class present no variations worth noticing.

In the constitutional class there was an increase of eight deaths from cancer, and two from mortification, one from polypus, one from noma, one (a female) from gout, and two from unspecified diseases. From dropsy, however, there were six less, and from tumour three less.

Tubercular diseases caused 25 fewer deaths, phthisis having only 87 deaths, instead of 112; tabes mesenterica having six fewer. Scrofula, on the contrary, carried off two more, and other diseases of the same order four more.

In the local class affections of the brain and nervous system were less deadly; for while apoplexy, paralysis, and cephalitis (or inflammation of the brain) were more so, convulsions and other disorders of the brain had fewer deaths.

Heart disease was more destructive, the numbers being 132 and 109 in 1879 and 1878 respectively.

The respiratory system had nearly the same number of deaths —one less; there being an increase in those from lung disease but a decrease in those from bronchitis.

The digestive organs had nine less; the urinary 13 more.

Among diseases of the developmental class the principal cause of death was old age, the deaths from which were 231 in 1879, against 213 in the previous year.

The deaths through homicide were three less; through suicide also three less.

The following list will show the number of deaths from, and consequently the relative destructiveness of, a few of the principal causes of death in the last year :—

1.	Old age	231	
2.	Heart disease	121	
3.	Phthisis	87	
4.	Pneumonia	75	
5.	Convulsions	73	
6.	Atrophy and debility	65	
7.	Diarrhœa	64	
8.	Diphtheria	61	
	Cancer	61	
9.	Apoplexy	51	
	Bronchitis	51	
10.	Paralysis	45	

Old age is uniformly first. Heart disease, which in the preceding three years occupied the third or fourth place, reached a higher grade of fatality in 1879. Pneumonia was fourth, instead of being, as it generally is, fifth or sixth. Diphtheria, in the preceding three years, did not come within the first eight at all; and cancer made its appearance among them only once.

The number of cases of disease treated in the general hospitals at Hobart Town, Launceston, and Campbell Town in 1879, was

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1673,* and the deaths 153; the latter being 12 less than in 1878. The following were the ratios per cent. of deaths to cases and admissions in 1879 :—

	To Cases.	To Admissions.
At Hobart Town - - - -	7·45	7·95
At Launceston - - - -	10·21	11·32
At Campbell Town - - - -	5·66	6·00

The mortality, as in previous years, was much higher in the Launceston Hospital than in the other hospitals, where it was exceptionally low.

At the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 297 cases of sickness were treated, and 19 patients died; the rate of mortality being 6·40 per cent.

The deaths at the pauper establishments and gaols in proportion to the average number maintained throughout the year, were—

	Per cent. of daily Average.	Average Age.
Pauper Establishments.		
Brickfields, Hobart Town - - -	27·91	71½
Cascades, ditto - - - -	8·91	68½
New Town, males - - - -	7·51	72
Ditto, females - - - -	15·96	61
Launceston - - - - -	25·41	68¼
Gaols.		
Hobart Town - - - -	2·02	41
Launceston - - - - -	6·73	44

The mean reading of the barometer at Hobart Town throughout the year was 29·875, or ·071 higher than in 1878; of the thermometer 55·39, or ·37 higher. The mean of the highest readings in the sun of the self-registering thermometer (100·60) was 10·87 above that of 1878; the means of the highest readings in the shade (65·24), and the lowest on the grass (37·00) were rather below those of 1878. Humidity (·76) was 0·01 higher; obscuration (7·00) was ·36 higher. Wind-force was lower, the monthly mean being ·60, against 1·05, and the maximum 4·87, against 7·79. The rain-fall in the year was 21·07 inches, being 8·69

* It was only discovered in writing this report, that the returns of diseases and deaths for the Launceston Hospital since 1876 have been based upon the "admissions" and not on the "cases" treated, the distinction, apparently, not having been understood.

inches less than in 1878, and about 3 inches less than the average of 35 years. Spontaneous evaporation (28·30) was greater by ·04 than in 1878. The amount of ozone was less, being 4·79, against 5·23.

Ever since the abolition of the Magnetic Observatory established in Hobart Town by the Admiralty, the meteorological observations there have been taken by Mr. F. Abbott; and as the increasing infirmities of age have compelled him at last to give up a work which he has performed for so many years at his own expense, for the pure love of science, unless some arrangement be made to continue his observations the present will be the last occasion on which it will be possible to furnish a meteorological table for Hobart Town. If this should be the case, it will be the more to be regretted, because at a conference of the Government meteorologists held at Sydney in November last, it was agreed, "That in "view of the great importance which a better knowledge of the "movement and origin of strong gales and storms on our coast "lines and neighbouring seas is to the shipping and commercial "interests generally, it is desirable to secure, as far as possible, "co-operation in all the Australasian Colonies for the investigation of storms as well as for agricultural and general climatological purposes;" and that the Government of each Colony should be asked to sanction the expense of publishing certain observations taken at the same local hour, so that they could be compared with each other. It was deemed especially desirable that there should be a station at Hobart Town. As a proof of the importance of such a system to the shipping interest it was stated that "the observations at Hobart Town would indicate a "considerable time beforehand whether the disturbance would "become a serious one on the eastern coast of Australia. For "instance, it was a fact that the gale in which the 'Dandenong "was wrecked was indicated at Hobart Town 30 hours before "it reached Sydney."

The subject is one of deep importance to insurers of shipping, and it seems strange that the insurance offices have not taken it up. The system might probably be worked in this Colony at Hobart Town and George Town (the localities recommended by the conference) by officers of the telegraph department, and the whole expense, which need not be heavy, might be divided in proportion to population among the contracting colonies; and perhaps the funds might be wholly or partly provided out of the charges on shipping.

Putting aside the interests of science, there can be no question that a well arranged and carefully worked system of recording and publishing daily the changes of weather in the principal Colonies of the group might be made the means of saving much valuable property from shipwreck, as well as many lives.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

The number of electors for the Legislative Council on the rolls before the last revision in the early part of the present year is stated by the various returning officers (whose returns, however, both as regards the Council and Assembly, do not in some instances, quite correspond with those furnished last year) to have been 3,063. There were added 269 and struck off 204, leaving 3,128 on the revised rolls, being a gain of 65. No contested election for the Council was held during the past year.

On the rolls for the House of Assembly there were 15,334 electors before the revision; 2,435 were added, on revision, and 2,110 struck off, leaving 15,659, or 325 more than on the last rolls.

On a general view of the foregoing facts it will be seen that, while in some respects the condition of the Colony was not so flourishing in 1879 as in the preceding year, there were evidences of advance in others. As an instance of this it may be mentioned that, according to a local newspaper, between 40 and 50 houses were a short time since in course of building in Launceston. The quantity of gold produced was more than doubled; the amount of shipping was considerably greater; the number of industries increased; and if the prices of agricultural produce were generally low the yield was exceptionally good.

The revival in trade which has already commenced in England and elsewhere, may be expected to react beneficially on these Colonies; and judging from present indications, there is every reason to believe that the year now passing will compare very favourably with that which we have now had under review.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. C. NOWELL,
Government Statistician.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY for TASMANIA (so far as the Particulars can be ascertained) from 1877 to 1879 inclusive.

Year.	Population.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.	General Revenue.*	Customs' Revenue.	General Expenditure.†	Expenditure by the Commissariat.	Coin in the Banks.	Public Debt.	Crown Lands Sales and Rental.		Acres in Cultivation.
	Adults.		Total on 31st December.												Acres sold.	Revenue from Sales and Rental of Crown Lands.	
	Males.	Females.															
1877	56,523	50,581	107,104	3,211	2,040	831	9,717	9,270	£ 366,118	£ 201,966	£ 352,461	£ 17,258	£ 305,904	£ 1,589,705	39,522	£ 44,325	348,841
1878	58,036	51,911	109,947	3,502	1,700	866	9,524	8,483	385,936	211,030	379,232	17,831	302,712	1,758,500	46,242	49,554	355,403
1879	59,447	53,022	112,469	3,564	1,688	804	10,578	9,932	375,367‡	199,688	405,839‡	16,983	323,625	1,786,800	53,604	48,911	366,911

(*continued.*)

Year.	Grain Crop and Potatoes.				Apples.	Pears.	Live Stock.				Number of Live Stock imported.			Number of Live Stock exported.			Total Value of imports.	Total Value of exports.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.			Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.		
	bush.	bush.	bush.	tons.	bush.	bush.											£	£
1877	846,420	488,350	86,840	27,106	138,215	16,583	22,195	126,882	1,818,125	55,652	40	904	8,385	266	126	1,303	1,308,671	1,416,975
1878	778,977	714,987	97,845	27,257	137,215	18,684	24,107	126,276	1,838,831	39,595	58	1,347	10,980	287	15	654	1,324,812	1,315,695
1879	1,042,999	1,065,847	182,753	31,103	140,277	19,340	24,593	129,317	1,835,970	38,610	23	1,476	13,132	137	5	938	1,267,475	1,301,097

Note.—The statistical summary for several previous years will be found printed at pages 132–4 of [C.—2730] of September 1880.

* Excluding loans. † Excluding expenditure defrayed by loans. Furnished by the Colonial Auditor to 1865 inclusive; for following years by the Treasury.

‡ Subject to future revision.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY for TASMANIA (so far as the Particulars can be ascertained) from 1877 to 1879 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Exports of					Produce of Whale Fisheries. *	Shipping.				No. of certain Trades and Manufactures.†	Flour Mills in operation.	Government Schools.			No. of Post Offices.	Meteorological Register (Hobart Town).		
	Timber, value.	Grain, Hay, Flour, and Bran, value.	Wool.		Fruit, Jams, and Vegetables, value.		Inwards.		Outwards.				No.	Scholars on the Rolls.	Average Daily Attendance.		Barometer, Mean.	Thermometer, Mean.	Rainfall in Inches.
			Quantity.	Value.			No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.									
	£	£	lbs.	£	£	£											ins.	degs.	ins.
1877	72,909	93,729	8,016,396	522,885	176,286	31,605	678	159,308	680	160,209	3,232	79	165	12,557	5,973	180	29·915	54·28	20·82
1878	72,989	37,590	7,512,662	479,165	171,971	16,920	693	159,063	688	156,791	3,218	76	164	12,453	6,032	191	29·804	55·02	29·76
1879	59,713	24,146	7,385,002	407,227	191,276	13,425	705	189,087	723	192,808	3,259	63	171	12,652	6,203	198	29·875	55·39	21·07

Note.—The statistical summary for several previous years will be found printed at pages 132-4 of [C.—2730] of September 1880.

* Before the year 1867 the value given is that of exports only.

† The numbers previous to 1848 seem to be irreconcileable with those of later years, and are therefore omitted. Up to 1865 inclusive the returns appear to include all trades &c.; subsequently, only those specified on the forms supplied to the Collectors are returned.

E. C. NOWELL, Government Statistician.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 4.

Governor Sir W. C. F. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Perth,
July 26, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the Blue Book of Western Australia for 1879.

2. The speech with which I opened the session of the Legislative Council on the 19th instant contains such full information on the subject of the financial and general condition of the Colony that I shall be glad if your Lordship will allow it to serve as my report on the Blue Book now forwarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM C. F. ROBINSON.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

SPEECH delivered by his Excellency SIR WILLIAM CLEAVER FRANCIS ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., Governor, &c., &c., &c., at the opening of the session of the Legislative Council, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, Monday, 19th July 1880.

MR. SPEAKER and GENTLEMEN of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

IN meeting you for the despatch of public business, I take the opportunity of conveying to you my gratification at the cordial manner in which I was received on assuming, for the second time, the direction of your public affairs, and my warm appreciation of the expressions of confidence in my administration which were contained in the various Addresses presented to me on my return.

Desiring, as I do, to devote the best energies which I possess to the advancement of the Colony, I trust it may be my good fortune to retain the confidence of its inhabitants; and I earnestly hope that the period of my second residence here may be marked by the same cordial feeling between the Executive and the representatives of the people which existed during my former administration.

My only regret in resuming the charge of the Government is to find that your finances are somewhat embarrassed; and as public policy must always be influenced, if not entirely controlled, by fiscal considerations, I will briefly refer to our financial con-

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dition before alluding to the various other questions which await your attention.

During last session the Legislative Council was informed that there was an actual deficiency on the 31st December 1878 of 30,868*l.* These figures were correct. The Council was further informed that, unless additional taxes were raised, the deficit would be increased by the end of 1880 to 46,000*l.*, but that if the Legislature should think proper to add about 20,000*l.* a year to the revenue, by means of a re-arrangement of the tariff (a course which was subsequently adopted), the debt would be reduced at the end of 1880 to 26,000*l.*; at the end of 1881 to 6,000*l.*; and that it would be extinguished early in 1882.

In these calculations, so far as I can judge, no allowance was made for certain unestimated expenditure on account of works in progress in 1879, while the liabilities were apparently overlooked; and I am sorry to say that our financial position is considerably worse than was anticipated. At the same time there is nothing in the state of our affairs which prudence and economy will not speedily rectify.

Returns which I have recently had prepared, in an explicit and comprehensive form, will show you exactly how we stand. You will find that on the 31st December last, in addition to a deficiency in the finance account of 48,033*l.*, there were outstanding liabilities amounting in the whole to 32,917*l.*; making together a total indebtedness of 80,950*l.* From this there were assets to be deducted to the value of 1,053*l.*; leaving an actual indebtedness (exclusive of loans) on the 31st December 1879 of 79,897*l.* Of these liabilities, however, 12,236*l.* have been paid off since the 1st January last.

From the Council papers of last session, I observe that on the 28th July 1879 it was estimated by Government that the total indebtedness of the Colony on the 31st December 1879 would not be less than 35,000*l.*; and on the 6th October it was stated that the deficit on that date amounted to 30,000*l.* We now see that the actual indebtedness of the Colony on the 31st December last was considerably more than double that amount, and this error as to the true state of affairs in 1879 would appear to furnish an explanation of the discrepancy between the calculations which I have quoted and the result.

The Colonial treasurer and the late acting treasurer, who have, at my request, made a rigid investigation into the accounts, agree as to the correctness of the statements which I have now placed before you, and I feel confident that their figures may be relied upon.

By economy during the present year, and if the revenue responds to our expectations, we may show a credit balance on the year's transactions of about 10,000*l.* to be applied to the extinction of the deficit, which, added to the liabilities paid off since the 1st January, will reduce our indebtedness on the 31st December 1880 to 57,660*l.* Next year, as you will see from the estimates to be laid before you, I calculate that we shall save about 20,000*l.*, which will further reduce our indebtedness, by the end of 1881, to

37,661*l.*; but you will thus perceive that, viewing it in the most favourable light, we cannot expect, at our present rate of taxation, to clear off the whole deficiency before the middle or end of 1883, especially as during the next three years and a half we shall have to pay interest to the banks on such advances as may from time to time be required in aid of current revenue, and may possibly have to meet certain extraneous claims on the Government, the amount of which cannot, at this moment, be defined.

I much fear that under these circumstances we must abandon the idea of continuing the Eastern Railway at once, inasmuch as, situated as we are at present, we should go into the money market at a disadvantage, and it is moreover doubtful whether Her Majesty's Government would feel justified in sanctioning a further loan until our financial condition shall be restored. When that time arrives, the extra taxation which was recently imposed for the extinction of the deficit will be set free and be available for the payment of interest on a new loan for public works; and if, as I fully anticipate, we are able to show that the additional duties have not been injuriously felt, our position as borrowers will be so greatly improved that we ought to have no difficulty in raising on favourable terms such sums as may then be required.

You will observe that I have not alluded to the possibility of clearing off our liabilities at an earlier date by means of further taxation, for it appears to have been affirmed last session that the debt should be gradually liquidated by such additional revenue as it was then considered could be raised without pressing unduly on the community. At the same time, it cannot, I think, be alleged that the Colony is heavily taxed, and if your Honourable Council should now be of opinion that extra taxes could without injury be imposed, I should not be indisposed to accede to your views in the matter, as of course the sooner we can pay off our liabilities the sooner we shall be able to proceed with various much-needed undertakings.

I may here be allowed to observe that, according to revised returns presented to Council by my predecessor, the year 1877, the last of my former administration, commenced with a credit balance of 3,909*l.*; notwithstanding that during the years 1875–6 no less than 30,362*l.* had been expended on the Eucla telegraph line out of surplus revenue. The deficit commenced to be created in the latter part of 1877. On the 31st December of that year it amounted to 12,787*l.* By the end of 1878 it had risen to 30,868*l.*; and on the 31st December last it reached, as I have already stated, the sum of 79,897*l.*

You are aware that during the last few years the Legislature has authorised, by Resolutions, the expenditure of considerable sums on services for which no provision was made in the estimates. I cannot but think that this practice—imprudent at any time, but doubly so when the public resources are straitened—is to some extent to blame for our difficulties; and I would strongly urge on you to sanction in the future no items of expenditure but such as are included in the estimates.

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The Government, on the other hand, should adhere strictly to the Appropriation Act. I do not for one moment say that any items of expenditure—large as they have sometimes been—which the Government may from time to time have incurred in advance of Legislative authority were unnecessary. Indeed, I find it stated by the Select Committee on the Over-Expenditure for 1878, which considerably exceeded the average, that "due regard to "economy was, as a whole, observed by the Government." But the practice is equally as faulty as the appropriation of moneys by Resolution, and should certainly not be continued.

In order to carry out such a reform as this, it will be necessary that the Government should be entrusted with a sufficient margin for contingencies; and to this I feel confident you will not object. In preparing estimates of expenditure, while not allowing extravagant margins to be given to the detailed votes, it is certainly better to provide for each particular service an amount within which, except in extraordinary circumstances, the expenditure may fairly and properly be required to be kept, than to frame the estimates on an insufficient scale, and leave it to the Governor to issue on his own authority supplementary warrants, which have to be legalised by subsequent legislation.

In quitting, for the present, the subject of the financial position of the Colony, I have only to remark that, whatever causes may have led to our present temporary embarrassment, the greatest economy should now be exercised in all branches of the service, and I am sure you will agree with me that, however loath we may be to postpone important and desirable undertakings, our first duty is to replace our finances on a sound and satisfactory basis.

With this object in view, you will find that the estimates about to be submitted to you have been prepared with the utmost care. The revenue for 1881 is estimated at 192,154*l.*, against an estimated revenue for the current year of 181,560*l.* The expenditure is estimated at 172,215.*l*, against 176,256*l.* for 1880, leaving a probable credit balance of 19,939*l.* available for the reduction of the deficit at the end of the year.

I would willingly have shown you, had it been in my power, a greater difference between the estimated expenditure of this year and the next, but after the most careful attention I have been unable to see my way to propose any further reductions without crippling the departments, and really doing an injury to the public service. This, of course, is a question which it will be your province to review when the estimates come before you, and you will not find me indisposed to acquiesce in any prudent retrenchments which, on deliberate consideration, you may deem it right to propose.

For immigration I have placed 4,000*l.* on the estimates. You are aware of the causes which led to immigration being stopped by my predecessor in the early part of 1878, and that since that date only a limited number of nominated European and Chinese immigrants have been introduced. I am led to believe that the want of labour is beginning to be again seriously felt, but this is

a question on which the representatives from the various districts must be better informed than the Government, and therefore it will be for you to decide whether or not the amount which I have placed on the estimates shall be expended.

For the up-keep of minor roads I have placed 2,750*l.* on the estimates. For some years past, and until the expenditure of the roads loan commenced, the annual grant for the up-keep of roads in general was about 11,000*l.*, and in fixing 2,750*l.* as the amount for the minor roads for next year I have been guided by the opinion expressed by the Legislative Council in 1874, that not more than 25 per cent. of the amount allotted should be expended on minor roads.

For the main roads I only propose to appropriate 1,000*l.*, as large sums are now being expended upon them out of loan, and assistance from current revenue is only required for repairs of a nature which ought not to be charged to the loan. I am aware that a wish has been expressed that the expenditure of the loan should be transferred from the Government to the boards. This, even if it were necessary—which I am not prepared to admit—would, as I have elsewhere pointed out, be impossible, inasmuch as my predecessor having informed the Secretary of State, before the loan was raised, that the expenditure would be controlled by a Government committee, it would now be out of the question to transfer the control of the money to boards which are not responsible to the Government. I am happy to say that many of the boards are co-operating cordially with the central committee, and good results may be anticipated. In those few distric s in which the boards have declined to co-operate with Government the works are being carried out by contract under the immediate orders of the superintendent. Reports on this subject will be communicated to you.

On the important question of steam service on the coast I shall probably have occasion to communicate with you at an early date. I am now endeavouring to arrange that the "Otway," instead of spending all her time between Albany and Melbour e, shall make four trips a year to the North-west Coast; and I f el sure you will concur with me that, if this can be accom plished, much benefit may be anticipated from the change.

Papers relating to the strength of the staff of the Audit Department will be communicated to you. I found in April last that the examination of the accounts was then about seven months in arrear, and, in view of the great importance of a prompt and efficient audit, I authorised a temporary increase of the staff for the purpose of wiping off arrears and bringing the work up to date. I think you will agree with me that all accounts should be audited within three months at the latest, and I am sure you will readily assent to the slight permanent addition to his staff which the Auditor General says will be necessary in order to enable this to be done in the future. It is right I should add that the Auditor General does not appear to have been to blame for the arrears which h ad accumulated in his department.

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Finding on my arrival that no steps had been taken for framing regulations for the disposal of the country recently explored by Mr. Alexander Forrest on the Fitzroy River, I requested the Pearl Shell Fishery Commission to take this subject also into their consideration, and the regulations prepared by the Commission have been adopted by the Governor in Executive Council and submitted for the approval of the Secretary of State. I have requested the Secretary of State to communicate to me his decision by telegraph, and I hope that the regulations may be proclaimed before the time fixed for the Melbourne Exhibition, at which it would be obviously desirable to circulate them. Applications for nearly four million acres of land on the Fitzroy have already been received, and a revenue from that district appears for the first time on the estimates for 1881.

In reference to the Melbourne Exhibition, I am glad to inform you that the gentlemen to whom I have intrusted the expenditure of the vote taken last session for this purpose have made good progress in their preparations. The Committee, though not appointed until the beginning of May, have taken so much interest in the subject that I have every reason to believe that their exertions will be attended with success, and that a creditable representation of our resources will be made. My best thanks are due to the gentlemen forming the Committee for consenting to act, notwithstanding the limited time and money at their disposal, as also to the Surveyor General for the great trouble he has cheerfully undertaken in connexion with the duties of Chairman.

I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have decided that the pensioner force here is to be disbanded, but that, in the interests of public safety, 4,000*l.* a year will be contributed by the Imperial Government up to the year 1887, in addition to the amounts already promised in aid of magistracy and police. The Secretary of State for the Home Department has expressed a wish that whatever arrangements may be required for providing for the objects hitherto fulfilled by the pensioner force, may be carried out within six months from the receipt by me of his despatch. I am now considering the question, and probably I may be able to inform you before the end of the session of the steps taken by me in pursuance of the foregoing instructions.

The departmental reports for 1879 are, as usual, exceedingly interesting.

The Surveyor General reports that the revenue derived from Crown Lands in 1879 exceeded that of the previous year by 1,017*l.*; that the amended regulations which were brought into force in 1878 have worked very well, and have given a stimulus to the settlement of pastoral lands; and that the timber trade in the southern districts has flourished during the year, want of labour alone preventing the execution of many orders which were otherwise available. The Surveyor General adds that the most careful economy was exercised during the year, and that the unexpended balance of the vote was appropriated to the payment of special surveys on the North-West Coast made in 1878. The

question of the compilation of a large map of the Colony has been receiving the Surveyor General's attention. It is proposed forthwith to construct such a map, on the scale of ten miles to an inch, showing the results of all surveys and explorations made since the foundation of the Colony, and then to photolithograph the map for the convenience of the public.

The Postmaster General states that the business of his department has materially increased during the year. As regards the mail and passenger service recently established by my predecessor, he is able to report most favourably. In despatch, regularity, and accommodation the Postmaster General considers that the new conveyances are undoubtedly a great boon to the districts, and that they will ultimately become almost self-supporting.

The remarks of the Superintendent of Police in deprecation of any further reduction of the force are worthy of your serious attention. I am happy to say that, from my experience of other Colonies, I consider the force here to be exceptionally efficient and trustworthy. At the same time it is certainly not larger than is required, and considering the vast area of country that has to be supervised by a force numbering in all 115 officers and men, and that, as the Superintendent justly remarks, constables in remote localities have frequently to act on their own judgment and responsibility, I think the Government and Legislature have good reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the duties of the police are discharged.

Although the Colonial Surgeon is able to report that there was no visitation of a general epidemic to swell the death rate of 1879, there is matter for serious reflection in his remarks, and in those of the Medical Officer at Geraldton, on the insanitary state of some of the towns of the Colony, more particularly in reference to defective water supply and sewage contamination, consequent on the neglect of the municipal councils to enforce the sanitary provisions of the law. It is competent to the Legislature to place in the hands of the Government an alternative machinery for carrying out the law, and I find that such a course was at one time contemplated by my predecessor. But I allow myself to hope that the municipal authorities are now alive to the evil, and that they will take thorough and effectual measures for remedying a state of things which is little creditable to the Colony and a source of danger to the inhabitants. Were it not that our climate is one of the finest in the world, we should long since have suffered seriously from the neglect of sanitary precautions, and it would indeed be unwise to suppose that, as our towns become more crowded, we can expect a continued immunity from serious epidemic disease, if we systematically violate conditions essential to the public health. Further papers on this subject will be laid before you. The remarks of the Medical Officers therein expressed demand the gravest attention.

The Central Board of Education state that on the whole the public schools throughout the Colony continue in a very satisfactory state, both as regards the number of schools and the average

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attendance of scholars, especially in those supported entirely by Government, in which the attendance is said to have increased during the year. The board are zealously endeavouring to bring the benefits of education within reach of all sections of the community, notwithstanding the large area of country occupied, the number of families scattered throughout the settled districts, and the long distances which intervene between the places where families are located; and it is earnestly to be hoped that their efforts in this important direction may continue to be attended with success.

As regards the Northern Railway, which was opened for traffic on the 26th July last, the Director of Public Works states that the line has been successfully worked, only one casualty having occurred, which was fortunately not attended with any serious results. The financial working has not been altogether satisfactory, owing to the depressed state of the lead market. I find, however, that items have been charged to revenue which should have been charged to capital, and Mr. Thomas confidently anticipates that the receipts during the next twelve months will fully cover the expenditure.

The total cost of the Northern Railway, including purchase of land, fencing, a telegraph line to Northampton, and all other charges, with the exception of one outstanding claim which now forms the subject of arbitration, was 146,634*l.*, or 4,313*l.* per mile. The original estimate was, therefore, largely exceeded; at the same time, the Director of Public Works asserts that there has not been a railway constructed elsewhere of the same gauge, the same amount of earthwork, and including a telegraph line, at so low a mileage rate.

The first section of the Eastern Railway is reported to be progressing most satisfactorily. Although it is scarcely 12 months since the contractor commenced operations, it is expected that the line will be open for traffic from Fremantle to Guildford by the end of the year.

Numerous minor works, including a new School House at Geraldton, alterations and additions to the Vasse School House, the extension of the public offices in Perth, additions to the printing establishment, and the conversion of the Commissariat Store into a commodious Supreme Court, are reported to have been undertaken during the year. Various other works in progress, or for which tenders have been invited, are enumerated in Mr. Thomas' report.

The ordinances prepared for your consideration comprise measures of a useful character, deserving of careful attention.

It is proposed to amend the Jury Act by extending the radius within which jurors are at present summoned to seventy-five miles from Perth, thus securing the presence of a large body of intelligent and educated men, and at the same time lessening the frequency of the attendance of individuals. It is further proposed that on every trial for felony three special jurors shall be sworn if not challenged for cause, the peremptory right of challenge

with reference to the remaining nine being left untouched. The object of the Bill is to elevate the character of the jury in cases of felony, as well by introducing fresh blood as a higher class of intelligence amongst the jurors.

By an amendment of "The Police Ordinance, 1861," it is intended to create disorderly conduct in public places a definite offence, with severer penalties than at present.

Bills will also be presented to you to prevent the destruction and export of immature Sandalwood; to make perpetual the Census Act of 1848; to prohibit the introduction and spread of insects and matters destructive to vegetation; to provide for the relief and return to Western Australia of shipwrecked Colonial seamen; with various other measures of minor consequence, which need not here be particularized.

To one measure of a strictly legal character, and much general importance, I will, before I conclude, refer.

It appears to have been the intention of the framers of the local Act which in 1861 established the Supreme Court of this Colony that the jurisdiction of the Court should be co-extensive with that of the Superior Courts at Westminster; and that the procedure of the Colonial Court should be kept assimilated to, and governed by the rules and regulations of the English Courts. The English procedure of that day has been completely changed, and it appears to me that the time has arrived when, in the best interests of the Colony, the English Acts should be adopted, so far at all events as they may be deemed applicable. I shall take care that this is done in the way best calculated to suit the convenience of the public, as also that the time to be fixed for the coming into operation of the local Act shall be a period sufficiently distant to enable the practitioners to inform themselves respecting the future rules and regulations of the Court; which rules and regulations will, I have no doubt, be so prepared as to secure to the Colony not only the benefit of the experience recently gained in the Courts at Westminster, but also the further advantage of any local and practical knowledge which may tend to place our Supreme Court more or less in harmony with the practice of the other Australian Colonies.

I have reason to think that your Bankruptcy Law requires amendment; but, as I believe that the subject of law reform in this respect is still under consideration in England, I do not propose to take any immediate action with reference to this most important branch of the law.

A good system of judicial administration is of the first importance to all national communities; and, taking this view, I trust that you will, in the end, obtain a perfect code for the guidance of all concerned.

These, Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen, are the only remarks which I have to offer to you on this occasion, beyond expressing my earnest hope that your deliberations may conduce to the best interests of the Colony, and that you may be guided in all things to wise and impartial conclusions.

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No. 5.

Governor Sir A. MUSGRAVE, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL of KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, King's House, August 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying report upon the Blue Book of Jamaica for the year 1879.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT on the JAMAICA BLUE BOOK for the Year 1879.

Legislation.

THE Legislation of the year was unusually important.

Thirty-nine Laws were passed of which those more particularly calling for notice are the following:—

Law 1 of 1879.—"The Telegraph Law, 1879."

This measure provides for the construction and working of a system of electric telegraphs in this Island, the construction being entrusted to the Director of Roads and the working to the Postmaster for Jamaica. Powers are given to acquire lands under the provisions of the Lands Clauses Law, which is incorporated with this Law. Power is given to raise money for the purposes of telegraph construction and maintenance by loan from the Government Savings Bank on the security of debentures, a sum of 7,500*l.* being directly authorised to be so raised; any further sums required to be obtained from the same source by sanction of a vote of the Legislative Council. The property of the telegraph is vested in the Colonial Secretary. At the time of this Report all the principal towns on the north side, from Port Antonio to Lucea, are in communication with Kingston, through Moneague and Linstead, and it is hoped that the circuit on the south side will be completed in the course of the next few months.

Law 5 of 1879.—"A Law in aid of Law 33 of 1868."

This Law provides for the return of probate duty paid on debts, and places the Law upon the subject in Jamaica upon a footing

corresponding to that upon which it was placed in England by 55 Geo. III. cap. 184. sec. 151.

Law 6 of 1879.—"The Island Records Law, 1879."

A Report of a Commission appointed by Sir John Peter Grant in 1871 pointed out deficiencies in the organisation and defects in the working of the Island Secretary's Office, and recommended amongst other things that the Island Secretary should be paid by salary instead of by fees; that the Office of Clerk of the Court of Ordinary should be separated from that of Island Secretary, and that the Island Secretary's office should be a registry for the preservation of deeds and other documents as well as for publication. The vacancy caused by the death of the late Mr. Jackson, the last Island Secretary, has been taken advantage of for the purpose of completely re-organising the office.

The Record Office as established by this Law is to be not only a registry office for the recording of transactions and instruments of a private nature but also a public record office for the custody of public archives, including the records of the Superior Courts. The ordinary administrative work of the office, relating more particularly to registers of private transactions, is placed under the immediate supervision of a salaried officer to be called the Deputy Keeper of the Records, while the organising of the office, the care of the public records, and the indexing and arrangement of registers relating more particularly to land transfer, are committed to the Chief Justice as head of the office, with the title of Keeper of the Records, who is empowered to carry out the necessary reforms by means of rules. Certain classes of registers, viz., the Marriage Register and the Medical Register, are transferred to the office of the Registrar-General of Births and Deaths. Provision is also made for the office of Clerk of the Court of Ordinary, which was hitherto combined with the office of Island Secretary, being discharged by the Clerk of the Supreme Court, and the offices of Controller in Bankruptcy and Administrator General, which happened to be held by the late Island Secretary, have been conferred on a distinct officer, controlled under the authority of separate legislation, by the Supreme Court.

The Law is to some extent a consolidation of the various laws specified in the repeal Schedule, and to some extent an adaptation of the Imperial Statute 1 and 2 Vict. cap. 94.

Law 8 of 1879.—"The Married Women's Property Law, 1879."

This Law secures the property and earnings of married women to their own use, and is an adaptation to local circumstances of the Imperial Statutes 33 & 34 Vict. cap. 93 as amended by 37 & 38 Vict. cap. 50.

Law 10 of 1879.—"The Main Road Law, 1879."

This Law is intended to supersede the former Main Road Law 19 of 1868.

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It is little more than a systematic re-arrangement of existing Law, the chief alteration being that what was in the Law of 1868 met by independent provisions is now covered by the incorporation of the Lands Clauses Law, 1872.

Law 12 of 1879.—"The Railway Loan Law, 1879."

Giving to the Governor power to raise a loan of 140,000*l.* for the purchase and restoration of the Jamaica Railway.

Law 13 of 1879.—"A Law in aid of the Medical Law 47 of 1872."

This Law effects certain amendments in the Medical Law of 1872.

1. The establishment of a new form of register in which the names of practitioners are arranged in one class, instead of in three classes under the Law of 1872, according to their qualification to practise either medicine and surgery, or medicine only, or surgery only, the latter arrangement having evoked much comment from a majority of the profession.

2. The transfer of the medical registration from the former Island Secretary's office to the office of the Registrar-General of Births and Deaths.

3. Provisions forbidding unregistered persons from recovering medical charges by action at Law, and punishing the false assumption of titles or additions implying qualifications to practise, are reproduced with slight amendments from the Law of 1872.

Law 14 of 1879.—"The Divorce Law, 1879."

The object of this Law is to give jurisdiction in matters matrimonial to the Supreme Court, which will exercise such jurisdiction under the name of the Divorce Court, since consolidated together with the other Superior Courts by Law 24 of 1879 under the name of "The Supreme Court."

The jurisdiction given is similar to that of the Divorce Court of England, constituted by the Act 20 & 21 Vict. cap. 85, and afterwards absorbed in the High Court of Judicature by the Acts of 1873–75.

The grounds upon which a divorce may be obtained, and the grounds upon which judicial separation may be obtained, are the same as those upon which like decrees can be obtained in the English Courts.

The jurisdiction is confined to the Supreme Court, and cannot be exercised on circuit.

Law 15 of 1879.—"The Marriage Law, 1879."

Before this Law the celebration of marriage in Jamaica was regulated by two Statutes, viz., the Act 4 Vict. cap. 44 and Law 6 of 1871. These Statutes provided for the religious celebration of marriages by Dissenting and Church of England ministers, after the publication of banns or under a license from the Governor.

In so far as these Statutes did not extend, the celebration of marriage was regulated by the common law of England as it existed before the passing of Lord Hardwicke's Act, 26 Geo. 2. cap. 33, according to which, as interpreted by the Supreme Court of Jamaica, a contract of marriage *per verba de presenti* before a

priest in orders would be a valid marriage without any particular formalities or authority. JAMAICA.

The present Law supersedes the whole of the previously existing Law above mentioned, and provides that the interchange of consent necessary to constitute a marriage shall take place in the presence of a duly authorised officer called a marriage officer, and two witnesses, and not otherwise.

An intentional evasion of this requirement by both the parties renders the ceremony invalid, but irregularities and non-observance of the Law in other respects, though made punishable, do not invalidate it.

The Law provides for the appointment of Superintendent Registrars in each parish. These officers are required to have offices approved by the Governor. The Superintendent Registrar also receives and publishes notices of marriage much in the same way as the Superintendent Registrar under the English Marriage Laws, and as an ex-officio marriage officer witnesses marriages in his office in cases where the parties so desire.

Marriage officers also are to be appointed for each parish, and with a view to enlist the services of ministers of religion as largely as possible for that purpose, special provision is made under which all ministers of religion of respectability and with a local status will be eligible for the appointment. In fact since the Law has come into operation ministers of religion alone have been appointed marriage officers. Ministers so appointed are thereupon deemed to be for the purposes of marriage civil functionaries, and capable of performing and witnessing the civil marriage recognised by this Law.

The other provisions of the Law which may be noticed are the following:—

Section 10. This was framed to meet the scruples which were entertained by some of the clergy and others as to undertaking an office in which they might possibly be required to promote marriages which were contrary to their principles. As these scruples might apply to the publication of banns as well as to the actual celebration of marriage, the provision is necessary inasmuch as in this respect (by publication of banns) a minister of religion would otherwise be bound to act even in cases which might possibly conflict with the principles of his Church. But for this there would be no necessity for the provision of section 10, because there is nothing in the Law that makes it compulsory on any marriage officer, other than a Superintendent Registrar, to perform or witness a marriage.

The provisions relating to notification of intention to marry are partly new and partly an expression of existing Law.

The provisions for notification to the Superintendent Registrar are framed upon the plan of the Scotch Notice of Marriage Act of 1878.

The solemn declaration as to consent of parents and guardians required in certain cases by the English Act is not required; under

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this Law the consent is declared to be necessary, but the Law leaves it to be presumed unless the contrary is expressed.

The provision for notification of intended marriage by banns is in fact a repetition of the existing Law, supplemented by provisions securing accuracy in the process and responsibility in those who take part in it.

The provisions for lodging objections and disposing of the same are framed upon the plan of the Scotch Notice of Marriage Act.

The Law generally though providing for civil marriages does not insist upon a complete separation between civil and religious ceremonies in all cases. It leaves it to the option of persons interested to be married either with a purely civil ceremony in the Superintendent Registrar's Office, or with a religious ceremony, incorporating the words of civil contract, by any marriage officer.

Special provision is made for marriage in *articulo mortis* and for the registration of immigrant marriages.

A Registration department is expressly constituted by this Law for the purposes of marriage registration.

Law 16 of 1879.—"The Legacy Duty Law, 1879."

In this Island legacy duty has hitherto been charged under the Stamp Duty Law, 33 of 1868. It was thus nothing more than a stamp duty on the receipt, not a tax upon the property itself, so that if no receipt were given the revenue lost the duty. The imposition of the duty was in fact in the same unsatisfactory state as that in which it was in England before the passing of the Statute 36 Geo. 3. cap. 52, where, if executors or administrators chose to rely on the good faith of legatees or next of kin, and to run the risk of taking no receipts from them, the duties were altogether evaded.

It was believed that the same kind of evasion constantly took place here and that the revenue thereby lost a large amount of duty which ought to have been paid.

The liability to duty is by this Law transferred from the receipt to the legacy itself, in the same manner as was done by the 36 Geo. 3. cap. 52 in England. Under this Law the duty is extended to the proceeds of real estate directed to be sold, and to gifts made chargeable upon, or taking effect out of, real estate as distinguished from gifts of the realty itself.

Law 17 of 1879.—"The Leper's Home Law, 1879."

This Law is for the purpose of re-establishing, with new management under the Island Medical Department, the Leper's Home, originally provided for by the Act 28 Vict. cap. 13, since the date of which the institution had long since been separated from the public hospital in Kingston, and had been established as a separate one, first at Healthshire and now in the neighbourhood of Spanish Town.

Law 18 of 1879.—"The Immigration Finance Law, 1879."

The object of this Law is to give legal sanction to the recent arrangements with reference to immigration finance.

Section 4 carries out the proposal "that the planters should be "permanently relieved of the present debt charge."

Section 5 gives effect to the proposal that the export duties on sugar and rum shall be retained as a source of revenue for the new immigration fund, while those on coffee and dyewoods are appropriated to the purposes of general revenue.

Section 7 gives effect to the arrangement that the local and Indian departmental expenses, together with the expenses of return passage of immigrants already in the Colony, and with all immigration expenses not otherwise provided for, shall be defrayed from the Immigration Fund, which is also chargeable under the following section with a contribution to the cost of introduction of immigrants. It also makes the necessary provision for the pensions of Indian immigrants permanently incapacitated, in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of State.

The first part of section 8 lays on the employer the entire cost of "the expenses of introduction, recruiting and return passage "of all future immigrants," and the proviso carries out the amendment indicated in the Secretary of State's Despatch, Emigration, of 1st February 1879, so as to admit of the whole of the export duties and capitation tax being made available, in common with the indenture fee, for the defrayal of the expenses falling upon the employer in each year. The proviso as a whole is retrospective in its operation in so far as it admits employers of 1878 to an equal share of the advantages of the distribution with employers of 1879.

Sections 9–13, inclusive, regulate the manner of payment for immigrants by employers, and are substantially a reproduction of the corresponding provisions of the Immigration Amendment Law of 1878.

Section 14 provides that the cost of treatment of indentured immigrants in hospital shall be paid out of general revenue, and makes special provision to meet the case of immigrants of employers who did not elect to pay double capitation under the Law of 1878, and in respect of whom, therefore, payment in respect of hospital expenses is still required.

Section 15 provides that the "Immigrants Colonisation and Return Passage Fund," established by Law 17 of 1868, shall meet, as far as it will go, the cost of colonisation and commutation in lieu of return passage of immigrants introduced before 1878. After the exhaustion of this fund the charge will be met from general revenue.

The Law does not make any provision authorising the advance in the first instance from the public revenues of the sums required in each year for the payment of the cost of introducing immigrants, but such advances are in practice made from the moneys at deposit in the Savings Bank which subsequently get the employers notes as security.

Law 20 of 1879.—"A Law for the prevention of accidents at "sugar mills."

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The object of this Law is to enforce the adoption of a certain specified precaution against accidents of common occurrence in small sugar mills.

The Law as originally framed was intended to be applicable to all sugar mills, but it was ascertained that the use and construction of the large mills was such as to make the law unnecessary in their case.

The Law also provides against the employment of young children in the comparatively dangerous work of feeding sugar mills, and for the detection of offenders against its provisions.

Law 21 of 1879.—"The Island Curates' Fund Amendment "Law, 1879."

Under the provisions of an Act 8 Vict. cap. 38, provision was made for establishing a fund, to be made up by annual compulsory payments from Island curates, and to be expended in pensions for the widows and children of deceased Island curates.

Provision was made determining the principles on which the widows and children of Island curates who had belonged to the fund as Island curates and had died whilst such, or had been promoted or deprived in their lifetime, should receive pensions at the death of such curates. But no such provision was made to meet the case of widows and children of curates who retired voluntarily from the fund during life. In those cases the right was treated rather as a personal right of the curate, and it was provided that he should receive such sum as the trustees of the fund, acting under the advice of the actuary, should consider equitable; in other words that his claim upon the fund should be bought off for what it was worth.

In the year 1862 it was found that the scale on which pensions from the fund had been granted was too large in proportion to the receipts, and that if they were continued at the same rate future claimants on the fund would get nothing, and a new scale of pensions was determined upon in 1866 which has since been adhered to. But there was much difference of opinion amongst those concerned as to what payments should be made for compensation allowances to voluntarily retired curates under the old and new system respectively. As regards those who retired under the old system, inasmuch as the fund was practically insolvent at the time of their retirement, it was determined that as their prospective claim was worthless the compensation should be nil. And as regards those who retired under the new system the actuary of the fund prepared a scheme which is that set forth in the Schedule.

Law 22 of 1879.—"The Institute of Jamaica Law, 1879."

A society called "The Royal Society of Arts" for the promotion of science, arts, and commerce in Jamaica was incorporated by 27 Vict. sess. 1. cap. 22 with "The Royal Agricultural Society, previously incorporated by the 7 Vict. cap. 49.

The united societies exhibited some signs of activity so long as those who originally promoted them retained an interest in them, but in later years they languished and ceased to do anything for

he objects for which they had been created. Ultimately a natural history collection belonging to the united societies, and some remains of collections illustrating the industries of Jamaica which had been made at various times for international exhibitions, were handed over to the Government. These, together with the remnants of the library of the House of Assembly at Spanish Town, were housed in a building in Kingston known as Date Tree Hall, purchased for the purpose. The whole was placed under the care of the Island Chemist in the capacity of librarian and curator, assisted by a clerk. Considerable additions have annually been made to the library, and the museum was added to as objects of interest were offered.

The object of this Law is to place the institution under the control of an energetic Board of Governors, with powers that will enable them to develop its usefulness in the interests specified in the Law, as well in the maintenance and extension of the museum and library as in the furtherance of all local industries.

Law 23 of 1879.—" The Immigration Protection and Regulation Law.

The object of this Law is to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the protection of immigrants and the regulation of immigration. It does not comprise provisions relating to the financial arrangements and liabilities connected with immigration, these being dealt with in a separate Law of this year already referred to.

The greater part of the Law consists of a reproduction, in a systematic arrangement, of existing provisions comprised in about 25 laws passed during the last 30 years. A few obsolete provisions have been repealed altogether, and the Law has been added to and amended in some respects in accordance with suggestions made from time to time.

Law 24 of 1879.—" The Judicature Law."

The object of this Law are—

1. To consolidate the several Superior Courts of this Island, and to vest their jurisdiction and powers in one Supreme Court of Judicature.

2. To provide for the constitution of judges, officers, and offices of the Court so established.

3. To make provision for regulating the exercise of the jurisdiction of the Court.

4. To provide for the proper distribution of the business of the Court.

5. To lay down the principles on which law and equity may be administered concurrently by the Court.

6. To confer upon the judges of the Court certain special local jurisdictions, to be exercised in a court called the City of Kingston Court.

7. To confer upon the judges of the Court a limited power to regulate matters relating to the procedure of the Court.

Law 25 of 1879.—" The Judicature Laws Repeal Law, 1879."

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This Law repeals such enactments as are superseded by or inconsistent with the provisions of the Judicature Law, 1879, or the Civil Procedure Code.

There are included in such repeal also several obsolete enactments relating to matters for which it has not been thought necessary to make any new provision.

Law 28 of 1879.—"A Law in aid of the Administrator General's "Law 34 of 1873."

The object of this Law is to place the office of Administrator General under the immediate control of the Supreme Court of Judicature and to make the Administrator General an officer of the Court and accountable to it.

Provision is made for the payment of the Administrator General by a small salary, supplemented by per-centages upon the estates he administers.

Under the new arrangements of the courts and offices the Administrator General is Trustee in Bankruptcy in the Supreme Court, and a like provision for his remuneration in that capacity is made in the new Bankruptcy Law.

It is provided by this Law that the rules for the guidance of the Administrator General shall be prescribed in the same way as rules for the guidance of all other officers of the Court, viz., by the Court itself and not as formerly by the Governor.

Law 30 of 1879.—"The Kingston Sailors Home Law, 1879."

This Law reconstructs on a better and more substantial footing the institution known as the Sailor's Home of Kingston, in the management of which considerable difficulty had been experienced.

A corporate body is established for the management of the institution and the office of superintendent is created with definite powers. The principle on which Government grants are to be made is laid down to be that of a sum equal to double the total amount of voluntary subscriptions to the home during the preceding year. Some provisions exist for the purpose of securing vigour and economy in the administration of the home.

Law 32 of 1879.—"A Law to confirm and carry into effect "certain articles of agreement for the purchase by the Government "of this Island of the Jamaica Railway and the property of the "Jamaica Railway Company.

Effect has been given to the provisions of this Law so far as the acquisition of the railway by the Government is concerned, and it now only remains to introduce a Bill for authorising the winding up and dissolution of the Company.

Law 33 of 1879.—"The Bankruptcy Law, 1879."

The present Law is not intended to alter the relative jurisdictions of district courts under Law 25 of 1871 and the Supreme Court under Law 17 of 1877.

Under the above-mentioned Laws the clerks of the several district courts were the official trustees.

Several objections were raised to the system of administration provided by these Laws, and the death of the incumbent of the

office of Comptroller in Bankruptcy afforded an opportunity of making new provision in respect of this office. Advantage has been taken of the opportunity to abolish that office, to vest its duties in the Court of Bankruptcy, and to make new provision for the discharge of the functions of "Creditors' Trustees"

The offices of Comptroller and Official Trustee are abolished and a new office of Trustee in Bankruptcy is created. The duties assigned to this officer throughout the Law comprise all the duties which under the Bankruptcy Laws of 1871 and 1877 were assigned to the official trustees and creditors' trustees.

The status of the Trustee is defined and provision is made to place him under the immediate supervision of the Court, and providing for the discharge by the Court itself of duties formerly attaching to the office of Comptroller.

The effect of the foregoing provisions in connexion with the general tenor of the Law, to be afterwards alluded to, is to place the administration of debtor's estates in bankruptcy in the hands of one officer directly accountable to the Supreme Court. The officer is to be paid in the Supreme Court by a small salary and a per-centage on estates administered, and in the district courts by a per-centage only.

By section 6 it is provided that the Administrator General shall be ex officio the Trustee in Bankruptcy in the Supreme Court, the combination of two offices in many respects analogous being considered the best way of getting a competent person who would receive an adequate emolument for the work and would devote the whole of his time to his duties.

Subject to such considerable modifications as are involved in the system of purely official administration above mentioned, the general scope of this Law corresponds to that of the English Bankruptcy Law Amendment Bill of 1878. It should be noticed that in several points it has not been thought necessary to observe that distinction between traders and non-traders which occurs in the English Bill.

It should also be noticed that the question of a bankrupt's discharge, and of the conditions to be attached thereto, is not to be as under the English Bill a matter to be determined by the votes of creditors but upon the judgment of the Court as to the character and circumstances of the bankruptcy.

There are also comprised in the Law some provisions of a quasi-correctional character for the punishment of culpable bankruptcies, which are in substance a re-enactment of provisions which are said to have worked well under the former Insolvency Law, 11 Vict. cap. 28.

The procedure to be observed throughout the Law follows the broad lines laid down in the English Bill but with several simplifications.

Law 34 of 1879.—"The School Commission Law, 1879."

There are scattered throughout the country a variety of school endowments, and the number of those endowments and the value

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of them is not satisfactorily ascertained. A commission was appointed in the year 1845, and in the reports which they presented they pointed out the prevalence of abuses, the inefficiency of the governing bodies, and the misappplication or non-application of many of the endowments, and recommended legislation. But though the Legislature has since interfered and improved a few of the charities so reported upon, the recommendations of the commission do not appear to have met with much attention, and it is feared that these charities, if they have not lapsed again into their former condition, yet are not in a satisfactory state and do not supply to the Colony, and to those who are interested in educational privileges, that amount of benefit which the country might fairly expect from them.

This Law makes provision for the establishment of a corporate body to be called the Jamaica Schools Commission for the following purposes:—

1st. To be governing body for the management of a school to be called the Jamaica High School, to be so conducted as to promote the higher education of the country; and.

2nd. To carry out a systematic visitation of endowed schools, and to prepare and execute schemes for the reform of governing bodies, and the better application of endowments for education throughout the Island.

A grammar school known as Walton Free School, endowed partly by a grant from the Crown and partly by a transfer of the funds of a charity called Drax's Free School, was established in 1807 by the Act 48 Geo. 3. cap. 25, and placed under the management of a board of governors, comprising the Governor, the President and Members of the Council, the Speaker and Members of the Assembly, the Chief Justice, Attorney General, and certain other officials, and a number of private persons belonging to the parish of St. Ann, in which the school was situate.

In course of time, the official members being too far removed to exercise effective supervision, the local trustees became the only real managers of the school, and the benefits of the school endowment were by degrees improperly appropriated to the exclusive advantage of the parishioners of St. Ann's.

The change in the form of Government of Jamaica in 1866 abolished the majority of the ex officio trustees by putting an end to their offices, and by Law 8 of 1868 their place was filled by the municipal board of the parish of St. Ann.

The board so re-constructed practically managed the school as a parochial school, but a recent application from the board for assistance from the public funds afforded the occasion for restoring it to the position from which it had been allowed to lapse, and for re-establishing it as an endowed charity for the benefit of the whole Island, under proper management.

It is proposed to accomplish this by transferring the Walton Free School to the Schools Commission, to be taken by it as the basis of the High School to be maintained under this Law.

The Commission is invested with such powers and duties as are necessary to enable it to carry out the purposes of the Law in its capacity as a Governing Body of the High School. It is contemplated to apply some little assistance to the school from the public general revenue. The character of the instruction is prescribed and there is a "conscience" clause. There are also provisions for the regulation and transfer of endowments on the principle of the Imperial Act of 1869 and 1878.

Law 35 of 1879.—"The Militia Law, 1879."

The object of this Law is to make provision under which a militia may be raised and organized in Jamaica when required. The Law has not yet been brought into active operation but whenever it may be determined to do so the machinery is provided for the embodiment and maintenance of a Force.

The previously existing Militia Law, viz., the Act 9 Vict. cap. 35 (amended in certain particulars by the Acts 13 Vict. cap. 31 and 15 Vict. cap. 27) was cumbrous and out of date and most of its provisions had become obsolete, and at the same time the Militia Regulation Law, 22 Vict. cap. 43, had fallen into disuse, so that there was no register upon which a ballot could be taken.

This Law defines the liability to service in the Militia, establishes a permanent Militia Register in each parish in the Island, and regulates the selection from those registers of such forces as it may from time to time be determined to raise. It also makes provision for the government, organisation, instruction and discipline of the Militia, and in relation to the supply and storage of arms, amunition and uniforms, but does not provide for any immediate public expenditure in that behalf.

Law 36 of 1879.—"The Criminal Code, 1879."

Subject to certain exceptions this Code, which was prepared by a skilled draughtsman under the general direction of Sir Fitz-James Stephen, and was enacted with but few alterations suggested by local circumstances, but has not yet been brought into operation, is designed to comprise the whole matter of a part of a general penal system, viz. :—"A Law prescribing the definitions and punishments of the graver offences, which may be distinguished as "Crimes." "The principal exceptions" (to quote from the memorandum of Mr. Wright, the draughtsman) "are "that on the one hand a few minor offences are included, which "are closely allied to the proper matter of the Code; and on the "other hand some crimes are excluded as being properly the sub-"jects not of Colonial but of Imperial legislation. The most "important of these are treason and piracy."

The Code is divided into two parts, viz. :—

Part I. (General Provisions) containing matters of common application to all or to any particular crimes and Part II. (Particular Crimes) containing the definitions and punishments of the particular crimes.

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The Code has been enacted almost precisely in the form in which it was submitted to the Legislative Council.

The Law contains a clause suspending its operation until the Royal Assent has been signified.

The addition of a definition of "Jury" in section 18 (a) was made in view of the trial of indictments by district court judges without juries.

The section 29 sub-section (a) giving to courts of summary jurisdiction greatly enlarged powers in case of offenders under 18 years of age was struck out.

A very strong objection to this provision was expressed in the Legislative Council on the general ground that it was not desirable to extend the jurisdiction under which indictable offences are tried and punished summarily without a jury, and partly on the ground that courts of summary jurisdiction, as at present defined, included courts so composed as to make them unsatisfactory tribunals to which to commit powers of this description.

The principle of the objection based upon the former of these grounds received some sanction in 1877, when Law 10 of that year was introduced by direction of the Secretary of State to quiet objections which had been made to the supposed enlargement of the punishing powers of District Courts in a particular instance by Law 14 of 1876, and the point is one upon which a good deal of jealousy prevails.

The objection on the latter ground was, as I understood it, directed more particularly to the fact that this provision involved the entrusting of large powers of awarding flogging and whipping to tribunals which might, under existing circumstances, be composed of lay justices.

The latter part of the section relating to cases in which the accused is dealt with by his own consent remains.

Some slight objection was at first made to that part of section 34 which punished "intentional libel imputing infamous crime "with whipping," but when the scope of the section had been explained the objection was withdrawn and the section passed; nor was any opposition subsequently offered to the Bill by the Council on the ground of this provision, although there was ample opportunity as the progress of the Bill was suspended for some weeks.

In section 170 the definition was altered so as to comprise what is now provided for by the Prædial Larceny Law. There is no definition of "cultivated" in the Code, and the object of the addition is to cover the case of fruit trees and others growing in provision grounds, but of which it would be difficult to say as to any particular tree that it was cultivated in the sense of having had any cultivation specially bestowed upon it.

Some words have been added to section 214 to meet cases which though in principle the same as those provided for seem to be doubtfully within the words "due execution of the Law."

Section 285 has been altered to meet the existing Law of Jamaica under which inquests are held otherwise than on view of the body.

In section 320 the addition of the words "notification of intended marriage" is in consequence of the Marriage Law, 1879, under which ministers of religion perform functions as public officers as fully with reference to the notification of intended marriage as with reference to the solemnization and registration of marriage actually celebrated.

Law 37 of 1879.—"The Code of Criminal Procedure."

The object of this code is to provide a complete system of criminal procedure applicable to prosecutions by indictment and summary prosecutions.

The Code also makes general provisions in relation to the execution of sentences of punishment.

Law 38 of 1879.—"The Criminal Laws Repeal Law, 1879."

This Law is intended to repeal enactments relating to matters for which other provision is made by the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes.

It is provided by section 3 that this repeal shall not limit the exercise of the power reserved to the Attorney General under sub-section 1 of section 2 of the Criminal Procedure Code, but probably there will be no necessity for the exercise of that power.

Law 39 of 1879.—"The Civil Procedure Code."

This Law provides a complete system of procedure at common law and in equity, to be observed in the Supreme Court of Judicature as established by the Judicature Law, 1879.

The Law is an adaptation to the circumstances of this Island of the Code of Civil Procedure of the Leeward Islands, which is itself founded mainly on the rules of court drawn up under the English Judicature Acts.

A draft of this Law was approved by the Secretary of State subject to certain amendments. All the amendments suggested except one have been adopted in the Law. The one amendment not carried out is the addition of the words "or before a Judge sitting with Assessors" in the provision (section 234) for the different modes of trial.

A few additions have be made embodying portions of existing Procedure Law which it was not thought desirable to abandon altogether.

Finance.

On account of general revenue and expenditure services in 1878–79, exclusive of appropriated revenue and expenditure, the receipts were 435,899*l.*, and the payments, including 9,736*l.* for redemption of debt, and 10,706*l.* invested in sinking funds on account of immigration and other loans, amounted to 449,587*l.* There was, however, available at the commencement of the year a surplus of, 31,198*l.*, so that the expenditure was met and a credit balance of 17,510*l.* carried on to the current financial year.

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The local revenues, which are appropriated to parochial roads, pauper relief, sanitary purposes, and other similar services, and are administered by the several municipal boards, produced in 1878–79 78,967*l.*, an amount which, after deducting the new item of gas rates now shown for the first time, is less by 1,461*l.* than the receipts in the previous year. The expenditure on the other hand stood at 73,793*l.*, thus leaving a surplus of 5,174*l.* to be carried to the further credit of the several funds.

The revenue appropriated to immigration services amounted to 32,136*l.*, while the expenditure was 21,157*l.*; the apparent surplus of 10,979*l.* is, however, reducible by the cost of the vessel despatched with returned immigrants during the year, which had not been brought to account by the close of the year.

The usual comparative table of the whole of the Treasury receipts in the financial year under report with those of the previous year is as follows:—

Comparative Yearly Statement of Revenue.

—	1878–79.	1877–78.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
General Revenue.				
Import duties	232,285	245,075	—	12,790
Export duties	7,040	5,431	1,609	—
Light dues	2,588	2,441	147	—
Harbour masters' fees	592	671	—	79
Rum duties	91,088	92,888	—	1,800
Licenses	17,391	18,019	—	628
Stamps	14,118	14,840	—	722
Postal revenues	14,089	14,389	—	300
Court fees	7,782	8,742	—	960
Fines and forfeitures	2,765	2,575	190	—
Interest on securities for sinking funds	4,319	3,957	362	—
Interest other than as above	3,258	2,874	384	—
Jamaica Railway revenue	11,086	—	11,086	—
Reimbursements for expenditure	17,000	19,357	—	2,357
Miscellaneous	10,498	7,304	3,194	—
	435,899	438,563	—	2,664
Revenues specially appropriated.				
Parochial road revenues	36,368	36,778	—	410
Kingston street tax	1,075	1,202	—	127
Parochial municipal revenues	6,300	6,002	298	—
Poor rates	26,916	28,050	—	1,134
Sanitary rates	2,020	2,092	—	72
Fire rates	738	777	—	39
Gas rates	5,529	—	5,529	—
Miscellaneous	22	—	22	—
	78,968	74,901	4,067	—

	1878–79.	1877–78.	Increase.	Decrease.
Immigration Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Export duties - - -	12,591	11,559	1,032	—
Capitation tax, &c. - -	8,600	4,785	3,815	-
Interest other than interest on sinking fund securities - -	1,412	1,369	43	—
Immigration introduction account, proceeds of promissory notes discounted by Government Savings Bank - - -	9,121	5,851	3,270	—
Miscellaneous - - -	412	625	—	213
Receipts other than revenue debt to general exchequer written off	—	1,823	—	1,823
Total immigration revenues -	32,136	26,012	6,124	—
Revenue specially appropriated	78,968	74,901	4,067	—
General revenue - -	435,899	438,563	—	2,664
	547,003	539,476	7,527	—
Receipts on Debt Account.				
Law 12 of 1879 - - -	99,526	—	99,526	—
Law 1 of 1878 - - -	—	35,000	—	35,000
	99,526	35,000	64,526	—

The large decrease under the head of import duties and the decrease under rum duties and stamps is fairly attributable to the general depression in trade; that on postal receipts to the reduction of the rate under the postal union from 6*d.* to 4*d.*, while the other items may be attributed to ordinary fluctuation. The increase of 29 per centum in the export duties on coffee and dyewoods, which are now applied to the purposes of general revenue, is due to a larger yield as well as to an extended cultivation of the former.

It will be noticed that the item of railway receipts now appears for the first time, consequent on the purchase of the railway by the government, the expenditure also similarly appearing. The figures are for the half-year, from 1st April, when the undertaking was transferred from the late company.

The appropriated revenues do not call for any special remarks; the decrease under poor rates may be attributed to the general depression under which considerable arrears have been allowed to occur, but with the better prospects now opening, it is hoped these arrears will be to a great extent collected. The objects and scope of these appropriated revenues were fully explained in my last year's report.

The immigration revenues show a satisfactory comparison with the receipts in the year before.

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements in the year compared with the year immediately preceding:—

Comparative Yearly Statement of Expenditure.

	1878–79.	1877–78.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Interest on debt	43,103	41,921	1,182	—
Pensions	12,029	10,632	1,397	—
Administrative departments	31,854	33,271	—	1,417
Revenue departments	31,186	33,001	—	1,815
Postal service	17,416	16,826	590	—
Judicial	36,055	36,459	—	404
Ecclesiastical	10,235	11,309	—	1,074
Medical	46,618	46,762	—	144
Constabulary	49,786	47,379	2,407	—
Penitentiary and prisons	24,716	26,104	—	1,388
Reformatories	4,377	5,242	—	865
Education	23,345	21,302	2,043	—
Harbour-masters	883	663	220	—
Colonial allowances to troops	4,858	4,633	225	—
Pilotage and harbour boards	304	452	—	148
Miscellaneous	11,179	16,518	—	5,339
Steam communication with America	4,253	3,843	410	—
Stationery for public departments	3,379	2,627	752	—
Public library and museum	587	522	65	—
Public plantations and gardens	4,208	4,489	—	281
Public works	52,718	51,060	1,658	—
Lighthouses	1,300	1,167	133	—
Parochial expenditure	2,266	2,409	—	143
Subsidy to West India and Panama Telegraph Company	1,833	—	1,833	—
Maintenance of Jamaica Railway	6,651	—	6,651	—
Registrar General's Department	2,496	—	2,496	—
Island Record Office	367	—	367	—
Island Secretary's Office	834	—	834	—
Government Printing Department	309	—	309	—
Total general expenditure	429,145	418,591	10,554	—
Expenditure from appropriated Revenues.				
Parochial roads	34,222	28,024	6,198	—
Kingston streets	213	417	—	204
Parochial municipal objects	3,138	3,455	—	317
Relief of the poor	27,739	27,179	560	—
Sanitary appropriation	2,330	2,714	—	384
Fire appropriation	747	2,710	—	1,963
Gas appropriation, Kingston	5,404	—	5,404	—
Total expenditure from appropriated revenues	73,793	64,499	9,294	—
	502,938	483,090	19,848	—
Expenditure out of Loans raised for the purpose.				
Jamaica railway	33,113	—	33,113	—
Telegraphs	4,154	—	4,154	—
	540,205	483,090	57,115	—

	1878–79.	1877–78.	Increase.	Decrease.
Disbursements other than Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Sinking funds - - -	10,706	8,024	2,682	—
Redemption of debt - -	12,437	15,925	—	3,488
Excess of deposits over withdrawals	36,500	558	35,942	—
Total Disbursements exclusive of charges on Immigration Fund Account - -	599,848	507,597	92,251	—
Immigration - - -	21,157	21,478	—	321
Grand total disbursements -	621,005	529,075	91,930	—

Of the increases under general expenditure that of 1,182*l.* for interest is attributable to an increase in the debenture debt and in the growing amount of the Government Savings Bank deposits; that of constabulary occurs principally under contingencies and the pay of the sub-officers and men; that of 2,043*l.* for education is attributable to a larger expenditure on the school grants which are made according to results, and that of 1,658*l.* for public works to ordinary fluctuation, while the subsidy to W. I. and P. telegraph and the railway are new items, and the expenditure in the Registrar General's and Island Secretary's and Record Offices appeared in preceding year under "Miscellaneous." The large increase of the parochial road expenditure was consequent on the severe floods during the year, and is partly met by grants from the parochial revenue reserve fund.

The decreases under the administrative and revenue departments are due to reductions in the staff of the several departments; that under ecclesiastical to the gradual operation of disestablishment by the vacancies made in livings; under miscellaneous to general fluctuation and to the expenditure on account of the Island Secretary's and Registrar General's Departments not now appearing under this head. The decreases of expenditure from appropriated revenues do not call for any special remarks, the expenditure being in the hands of the several municipal boards and any balance in favour of any particular fund being carried on to its credit in the succeeding year.

There was but little change in the immigration expenditure.

Pensions.

During the year 17 pensions amounting in all to 1,431*l.* were granted on the principles of the Imperial Superannuation Act and Treasury Rules, in consequence of retirement from office on the unavoidable grounds of either old age or ill-health permanently incapacitating the holder for the performance of his duties; and the pension list was relieved by deaths to the extent of 256*l.* The total amount paid for pensions during the year was 12,029*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* against 10,632*l.* in the year before and 11,939*l.* in 1876–77.

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One of the new pensioners drew a salary of 340*l.* as Island Curate, which of course appears as a decrease under ecclesiastical expenditure.

Debt.

A sum of 100,000*l.* was raised during the year under the provisions of Law 12 of 1879 towards the purchase and re-construction of the Jamaica Railway; the amount bears interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. and was raised by the Crown Agents in the London market. Tenders to the amount of 302,200*l.* were received, those selected for acceptance being at the rate of 99*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* for every 100*l.* in debentures.

This loan although secured by charge on the general revenue is not however regarded as forming a burden upon it, as there is reason to believe that the earnings of the railway will be quite sufficient to furuish both interest and sinking fund for liquidation of the debt.

Though the construction of the lines of telegraph authorised by the 9th section of Law 1 of 1879 was nearly finally completed in this year, the issuing of the debentures sanctioned for the purposes under that law did not formally take place within the year the amounts for the works being advanced from the Treasury.

No further sums were raised for any of the special services such as Kingston Markets, Kingston and Liguanea Waterworks, Kingston Gasworks, Kingston Slaughterhouse, and Rio Cobre Canal.

During the year 12,437*l.* of debt were paid off, of which 700*l.* (Kingston Streets Reconstruction, 1864) was from special revenues appropriated to the purpose; 2,000*l.* from the accumulations of sinking fund invested; and the remainder, viz., 350*l.*, rebellion expenses loan and 9,386*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* immigration loans from general revenue. An investment of 10,706*l.* was made in sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue, which was 757,316*l.* at the end of 1866, stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last 10 years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1870 -	609,505	11	3	1875 -	548,024	3	7
1871 -	591,656	5	6	1876 -	501,413	8	5
1872 -	571,542	1	3	1877 -	485,107	11	5
1873 -	554,492	18	11	1878 -	641,644	10	9
1874 -	539,108	8	2	1879 -	718,608	11	11

The increase this year is due to amount raised under Law 12 of 1877 for railway purchase and re-construction.

In addition to the debt shown in the above statement there are the following loans raised for special objects, and although

guaranteed by the general revenue secured primarily on the special revenues of the several undertakings:—

	£
Rio Cobre Canal - - - -	123,900
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks - -	98,200
Kingston markets - - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - - - -	25,000
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000

In the case of none of these has it yet been practicable to make from the special revenues any provision for the repayment of the capital, and it is an unsatisfactory feature that they are all more or less still further in debt for advances from the Treasury. In respect of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works the general revenue was called on, under its guarantee, to pay in 1878–9 5,357*l.* 5*s.* as the deficiency of receipts as against interest on loan and working expenses.

From this is excluded, as appearing before, the sum of 5,400*l.* still outstanding under the loan for the re-construction of the Kingston streets, for the repayment of which there is very sufficient provision under the 28 Vict. cap. 24.

Legislative Council.

There were 34 meetings in a session opened on the 11th December 1878, and prorogued on the 15th June 1879.

During the year under review Messrs. E. N. Walker, Assistant Colonial Secretary, and S. C. Burke, Crown Solicitor, were called to the Council as official members, and Messrs. H. F. Colthirst and H. Sewell were called as unofficial members under the enlargement of that body, sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

Civil Establishment.

During my absence, on leave, from 7th of August last till end of the year under review, the government of the Colony devolved upon the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Edward Newton, C.M.G.

Major Prenderville retired on 10th November 1878, upon a superannuation allowance, from the appointment of Inspector General of Police, after a very faithful service in this Island, commencing with the organisation of the Force in 1866. He was succeeded by Commander Hartwell, R. N. (retired), who assumed command upon Major Prenderville's departure from the Island.

In February 1879, Dr. Steventon, who had for a considerable period discharged with ability and marked success the duties of Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Public Hospital, retired from the service upon a pension in consequence of bodily infirmity. Occasion was taken of his retirement to re-arrange the duties of the medical officers of the Hospital; Dr. Mosse, the Superintending Medical Officer, was placed in chief executive control of the institution, and Dr. Ross, who had long been Dr.

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Steventon's able assistant, was appointed senior medical officer, charged more particularly with strictly professional duties.

In February 1879, Mr. Edward B. Lynch was appointed Deputy Keeper of the Records, an office created by sec. 6 of Law 6 of 1879, "The Island Records Law," which transfers to the Chief Justice for the time being the custody of all public records, registered deeds, and writings in the Island, with the title of "Keeper of the Records," and abolishes the office of Island Secretary as it previously existed.

The only death among the higher public servants during the year was that of Mr. Dawson, the Engineer of the Kingston district, who had served for 20 years in the Public Works Department.

Public Works.

A total sum of 72,338*l.* was expended on public works in the year under review; the expenditure is thus classified:—

Roads and Bridges.

	£	£
Maintenance and repair of main roads and bridges - - -	22,651	
New works on ditto - -	4,026	
		26,677

Other Services.

	£
Miscellaneous repairs and maintenance of public buildings -	5,415
New works on public buildings -	8,902
Lighthouses - - -	1,281
Rio Cobre Canal works - -	4,505
Public gardens - - -	3,654
Telegraphs - - -	4,691
Railways - - - -	1,347
Expenses in connexion with lands -	191
Rents, taxes, and water rates -	221
Departmental salaries - -	9,405
Office contingencies - -	65
New waterworks, Spanish Town -	5,060
Parochial services - - -	897
Furniture - - - -	27
	45,661
Total - -	£72,338

The average cost of maintaining the main roads and bridges during the year has been 31*l.* per mile. During the seven years anterior the cost has varied from 49*l.* 16*s.* per mile in 1874–75 to 30*l.* 9*s.* in 1877–78, or an average of 35*l.* 10*s.* 3¾*d.* a mile.

The roads, with one exception, are reported to be in excellent order.

Among the new works on main roads may be mentioned the following:—

Renewal of the superstructure of the flat bridge on the Bog Walk road and the raising of the piers and approaches by three feet to keep the roadway above ordinary freshets.

In connexion with this work, and with a similar object, the work of raising the road for about half a mile to the northward of the bridge was commenced during the year.

A bridge over Bodle's Pen Gully on the road from Old Harbour to Mandeville has been commenced, the approaches having been formed, the abutments built, and the ironwork ordered. This bridge is to have one span of 75 feet on iron girders.

In Saint Mary considerable repairs have been effected to five principal bridges on the junction road between Annotto Bay and Tom's River, and a bridge of 90 feet total span has been constructed over Warner's Pond. The ironwork was imported and paid for in the previous year, the erection was not completed on 30th September 1879, but is so now. The total cost is estimated at 1,300*l.*

The road at Windsor Castle sea-beach between Buff Bay and Annotto Bay has been considerably improved.

A footbridge over the Buff Bay River leading to the Charles Town School has been erected.

A very important line for a carriage road between Chapelton and Cave Valley, connecting the north and south of the Island, has been carefully surveyed and the road is about to be constructed.

Included in the sum spent on maintenance and new works, other than roads and bridges, is included the large sums of 1,171*l.* (maintenance) and 3,777*l.* (new works) on hospitals and asylums.

A site has been purchased for a parochial hospital at Morant Bay and the buildings designed throughout. Most of the buildings at the time of writing this are nearly complete.

Considerable repairs have been executed on some of the churches for the maintenance of which Government is still responsible, and the rectory house at Black River.

Extensive repairs and painting have been carried out on many court houses and public offices, prisons, the reformatories, and police stations.

Considerable improvements have also been made at the District Prison, Mandeville, the Short Term Prison at Black River, police stations, and lock-ups.

A house and land have been purchased at Moneague for a court house and police station, and certain alterations and improvements are in hand.

A house has also been purchased at Port Morant for a custom house, and at Manhead in Manchester for a court house and police station. A police station at Fletcher's Land in Kingston has been purchased and repaired, and new police stations erected and purchased at Green Island, Lacovia and Newport (St. Elizabeth).

The second new range of 48 cells for females at the General Penitentiary, commenced in 1877–78, has been completed.

The Lock Hospital premises have been purchased from the Kingston Municipal Board.

Some important new works have been undertaken and a few may be mentioned as illustrating their nature :—

A new infirmary for males at the Lunatic Asylum.

The Lazaretto at Green Bay (still under construction).

Spanish Town Waterworks improvement, extension, and reorganization. The water supply is now procured from the irrigation works instead of being pumped from the Rio Cobre as hitherto. The water is led from the canal to a reservoir of 1,400,000 gallons capacity which has been constructed at Hog Hole, a Government property about two miles from Spanish Town, thence it is led by a new eight-inch cast iron main pipe into the town. The system of service pipes is in course of almost entire renewal and is being extended.

A scheme for the supply of water to the town of Old Harbour has also been designed for an estimated cost of 4,500*l.*

Telegraphs.

A telegraph line between Kingston and St. Ann's Bay, and from thence to Montego Bay on the one side and to Port Antonio on the other, with intermediate stations at Spanish Town, Linstead, Moneague, Dry Harbour, Falmouth, Ocho Rios, Port Maria, Annotto bay, Buff Bay, and Hope Bay was in course of construction during the year.

Railways.

The Jamaica Railway was purchased on 1st April 1879, and surveys for its extension to Porus (24¼ miles) and to Ewarton from the Angel's station (14 miles) have been made by an engineer specially selected and sent out from England for the purpose, whose reports are separately printed.

The manager's report of the working of the line from the date of its purchase by Government to the end of the financial year shows very satisfactory results and considerable improvement as compared with the similar period last year.

Irrigation.

The Rio Cobre Canal works have been worked and ordinarily maintained during the year at a cost of 1,332*l.*, but extensive damages have occured to the dam by the extraordinary floods; work which was imperatively necessary had to be performed at a further cost of 3,175*l.* The revenue actually received during the same period was 2,481*l.*, but of this 1,242*l.* were outstanding from the previous year and 500*l.* remain outstanding of the revenue for 1878–79. The revenue for this year has somewhat fallen off as compared with that for the previous year, 1877–78. This is no doubt due to the heavy and continuous rainfall during the present and past year.

Government Lands.

The duties performed by the Government Surveyor have included the investigation of 294 land questions and the preparation of many plans.

The operations that have taken place under the 184 section of Law 22 of 1874 to prevent squatting resulted in the recovery of four lots in the city of Kingston, two pieces of land at Old Harbour, and one property of 150 acres in St. Ann's.

Lauds were sold or patented to the extent of about 2,500 acres, and the purchase money amounted in all to 1,290*l.* 10*s.*

Much of this land is situated in the interior of the country, at present somewhat difficult of access, but upon the extension of the railroad to Porus their value will much increase and their productiveness be multiplied.

No lands were escheated during the year.

District Courts.

The business transacted in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following summary :—

—	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
Criminal trials -	1,712	1,831	2,437	2,679	3,210	3,545	3,862	3,707	4,054	3,319
Small causes -	5,509	7,321	7,396	8,050	7,982	8,531	9,446	9,212	9,616	7,704
Judgment summonses - - -	—	—	—	843	1,397	1,511	1,736	1.670	1.579	1,592
Equity cases -	10	13	15	13	7	5	6	8	21	20
Cases under Land Law - -	137	353	485	241	228	133	309	222	163	104
Bankruptcy cases -	147	42	5	8	6	4	13	17	5	1
Probate cases -	43	42	31	29	23	39	62	93	94	102
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount claimed -	29,070	35,958	39,896	41,148	50,325	52,093	56,490	60,894	63,300	51,510
Judgment obtained*	14,919	18,580	15,770	19,873	25,773	26,048	27,970	30,976	32,348	28,479
Costs - - -	2,774	3,350	3,493	3,810	4,212	5,812	4,952	5,531	5,626	4,952
Court fees - -	3,225	4,424	4,432	4,600	4,721	4,994	5,597	5,436	5,491	4,757

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There were 11 appeals from the decisions of these courts during the year, six being in civil and five in criminal cases. Judgement was reversed in two cases, in one the conviction was quashed; two appeals were dismissed, and in six cases the judgments of the district courts were affirmed.

Botanical Gardens.

The plantations and gardens continued during the year under the control of the Director of Roads and Surveyor-General, with Mr. Jenman as Superintendent of all of them except the Cinchona plantation which was in charge of Mr. Nock, until August 1879, when Mr. Jenman having left on promotion to Demerara, the latter assumed charge of all the plantations and gardens, pending the arrival of the newly appointed Director.

Cinchona Plantation.—This plantation has received great attention during the year, and its present state of cultivation, and the success which has now attended the experiment of Cinchona cultivation in Jamaica, may well be a matter of congratulation and encouragement to intending cultivators. It has been proved by this success that another valuable product can be added to the list of Island staples if only the enterprise is at hand to embark in its cultivation.

With regard to the system of cultivation hitherto carried out on the plantation, that of wide planting having been recognized as a mistake and abandoned, it is anticipated that the close planting now being established will give far more satisfactory results than have even yet been attained, apart from the smaller area of land that will require to be kept up in proportion to the number of trees planted.

The cultivation of C. Officinalis, left off in 1873, has been resumed during the year, and the prices (ranging from 5*s*. 9*d* to 10*s*. per lb.) realized for the bark of this species seems fully to justify this step. This species, which was not favored by the late Superintendent on account of the small quantity of its yield and its limited success at lower elevations, appears better adapted for cultivation at the higher ones of from 4,500 to 6,000 feet, and a proof exists in the shape of several acres of a uniform growth of selfsown seedlings on Latimer Plantation on the St. Andrew's Slope of the Blue Mountain Range between Grant's Peak and Merce's Gap, or to come nearer all about the St. Andrew's side of "New Haven Gap."

During the year 48,286 trees have been propagated and set out in their permanent places and land prepared for about 9,000 more which will be shortly planted out.

It was reported that 65,000 plants in all stages were in the propagating houses when the annual report was sent in.

Of the money results of this plantation it may be mentioned that one shipment of 2,500 lbs. of bark which was sent to the London market during the year, and part of which indeed had

been rather damaged in transit, realized at good prices the sum of 425*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* It was recently estimated that the plantation from its commencement had cost 15,000*l.*, of which 5,000*l.* might be fairly put down to experiments in a pioneer work, and that while 8,000*l.* would be realized in this and the next years, an annual receipt of 2,500*l.* might thereafter be expected.

Jalap cultivation is still continued at this plantation to a limited extent, and during the year 14,924 lbs. of the tubes were produced which sold in the Colony in a green state for 62*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

Castleton Gardens.—A great demand has existed for economic plants and the gardens seem to have been able to meet it, thus discharging the primary object of its establishment. The following is the list of distribution :—

Oranges - - - -	15,055
Nutmegs - - - -	1,064
Cacao - - - -	1,181
Vanilla - - - -	319
Liberian coffee seeds, mangoes, &c. -	231

Of garden plants, palms, &c., there was also a large demandand distribution to the extent of 6,291 plants.

Seedlings of the best Trinidad cacao from trees six years old now in the Gardens have been liberally distributed, and also Liberian coffee seedlings produced from trees at Castleton.

Palisadoes Plantation.—There are estimated to be 21,000 cocoanut trees in this plantation, of which about 15,000 are in bearing. Several sales of the nuts have taken place at prices ranging from 3*l.* to 3*l.* 3*s.* per thousand delivered on the spot.

Hope Plantation.—This plantation of mahogany and teak trees, canes, &c., is still maintained, but it is now being considered whether the experimental cultivation of different varieties of cane need still be kept up, it having sufficiently achieved its object.

Kingston Parade Garden.—This garden is reported to have been properly maintained during the year. The recreation it affords to the inhabitants of the city of Kingston, in the middle of which it is situated, seem fully appreciated if one may judge from the numbers who frequent it.

Education.

The figures given in the Inspector of School's report of the progress of education during the year disclose very gratifying results. Turning back to the starting point of the present system in the year 1868, I find that there were but 286 schools under inspection, with 19,764 enrolled pupils; 10 years after the numbers had risen to 617 schools with 51,488 pupils on the books, and in this year, the eleventh of the new system, there are 646 schools with 52,243 pupils on the books.

Owing to the rainy character of the year there was a decrease in the average attendance of the children, but not to any very

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large extent taking into consideration all the circumstances. Average attendance in 1878, 29,679; in 1879, 28,661.

During the year a sum of 18,477*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* was spent in Government grants, including building grants, or an average grant to each pupil enrolled of 7*s.* 0¾*d.*, and to every one in average attendance of 12*s.* 10½*d.* Here it may be observed that in Jamaica the grant is higher than in any other West India Colony, the figures being

	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Leeward Islands - -	4	7½—	7	2½
Trinidad - - -	5	0 —	9	3
Barbados - - -		—	12	0
Jamaica - - -	7	0¾—	12	10½

There appears to be a move in the right direction as regards the standard of the schools. The teachers, it is said, stimulated by the application of the Government standards and the hope of higher awards are every year striving to do better work and to raise their schools to a higher state of efficiency. The proof of this is found in the increase of 10 in the number of first class schools, which now number 64, and an addition to the second class schools of 26, making the total 202, while the lower classes have decreased in proportion.

I am sorry, however, to say that a low standard of education still prevails amongst the pupil-teachers who passed and are entitled to grants, for out of 47 pupil-teachers only three in the second year and two in the third year passed as first class.

Although the Inspector of Schools is disposed to think these teachers have done fairly well there can scarcely be a doubt, in the face of these results, that a great improvement may reasonably be expected. This low standard is to be ascribed to the low standard of educational advantages which many of the teachers themselves had enjoyed; not sufficiently taught themselves it is a matter of difficulty for them to impart information to others. The use by pupil-teachers of unsuitable text books is also a drawback, and this the Inspector proposes to meet by insisting on special text books, to be indicated, being employed in the instruction of pupil-teachers.

It is satisfactory to learn that school registration which had previously been defective has improved in a marked degree, leading to the hope of still further amendment.

The Inspector notices the desire of the school managers of every denomination not only to sustain and improve their existing establishments, but also to extend their educational efforts, and in these circumstances he finds an assurance of the suitability of the existing system to the present educational requirements of the population.

The subjects of improving the educational status of the male teachers and of making provision for the training of female teachers, of which the Inspector of Schools treats at some length, are

recognized in the provision for and assistance to training schools, and will receive every consideration, for there is nothing that has more retarded the progress of education in this Colony than the want of skilled teachers in sufficient numbers.

Immigration.

The introduction of immigrants during the year was limited to 167 souls, viz., 96 men, 47 women, and 24 children, 165 of whom embarked, and two were born on board. On arrival they were allotted in the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Mary, and Clarendon.

The immigrants who arrived in 1874 completed their term of indentured service this year and received their certificates, while those who arrived in 1869 completed their 10 years' residence and received either bounty or a back passage to India. Bounty in lieu of return passage was paid during the year to 689 souls.

The returning immigrants during the year were 416 souls, or 361 statute adults, these were conveyed to Calcutta by the "Chetah" which sailed on the 17th June 1869. These immigrants consisted of—

196 Men.
123 Women.
44 Boys.
40 Girls.
13 Infants.

416 in all.

The amount of 3,898*l.* 3*s.* 4½*d.* was lodged in the Treasury here by 91 of these immigrants, or an average to each of 42*l.* 16*s.* 9½*d.*

The death-rate amongst the entire number of indentured immigrants has been higher than during last year, 3·10 per centum as against 2·89, a large number of deaths having occurred amongst those introduced in 1878. The birth-rate is however higher, being 1·10 against 0·93 lastyear.

In connexion with the death-rate it is satisfactory to know that in the parish of St. Thomas, once regarded as very unfavourable to the location of East Indians, the rate this year has only been 1·94 per centum.

No murders occurred during the year amongst the immigrants, and the criminal records bear favourable testimony to their character as a body.

Two important enactments connected with immigration were passed by the Legislature during the year, viz., the Immigration Finance Law and the Immigration Protection and Regulation Law. These Laws will be found fully explained under the head "of Legislature."

During the year the union hospitals, formerly used for the treatment of immigrants only, have by arrangement sanctioned by

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Law 13 of 1879 been converted into public general hospitals These institutions, while still giving ample relief to sick immigrants, will, I have no doubt, now become more generally useful.

Two ships have been chartered for the conveyance to the Colony of 700 immigrants who have been applied for, to arrive during the season 1879–80.

It may be of interest to record that there are in the Colony a total of 14,889 East Indian immigrants, of whom 7,039 have completed their 10 years of residence.

Generally it is very gratifying to learn, upon the authority of the Protector of Immigrants, that the relations between the immigrants and their employers continued satisfactory, and that the former are increasing in material wealth.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in savings banks for the last 10 years are shown below :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1870	2,674	79,686
1871	3,026	105,478
1872	3,396	142,240
1873	3,962	158,933
1874	4,582	179,176
1875	5,061	228,028
1876	5,431	243,171
1877	5,756	253,983
1878	6,002	273,620
1879	6,341	294,589

In the above amount are included deposits on account of the following public funds:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Constabulary reward fund - - -	4,765	5	5
Constabulary pension fund - - -	13,881	16	3
Sinking funds - - - -	18,800	10	8
Immigration colonisation fund - -	18,638	2	10
Immigrants' return passage fund - -	2,699	6	0
Beckford and Smith's charity - -	2,156	2	7
	60,941	3	9

Among the depositors were 436 Coolies with deposits amounting to 11,767*l.*

Of the deposits at 30th September 1879, 193,881*l.* were invested in Island debentures under different laws, 11,254*l.* were advanced on notes of employers to whom Coolies were indentured, and the remainder of the amount was uninvested. Of the 6,222

accounts opened by the general public 5,129 are for amounts of 50*l.* and under, thus showing that the advantages of the Savings Bank are fully appreciated by the classes for whose convenience it is mainly intended to provide.

The interest credited to depositors since the establishment of the Savings Bank has been 63,546*l.*

The total cost of management during the year was "1,819*l.*, "while the interest from investment of deposits was 9,850*l.*, and "that credited from general revenue under section 12 of Law 20 of "1870 was 3,256*l.*, showing, after payment to depositors of interest "to the amount of 10,415*l.*, a rich gain to the Savings Bank of 872*l.* "on the year's transactions."

Trade.

The value of the imports in each of the last 10 years is as follows:—

	£		£
1870 - -	1,300,455	1874–75 -	1,759,942
1870–71 -	1,331,185	1875–76 -	1,700,254
1871–72 -	1,559,602	1876–77 -	1,552,339
1872–73 -	1,733,121	1877–78 -	1,492,722
1873–74 -	1,762,817	1878–79 -	1,347,342

showing a decrease of 145,380*l.* in the year under review when compared with the preceding year. Of this amount 115,790*l.* was in dutiable goods, and 29,590*l.* in free goods. The decrease is due principally to diminished importations, under the following articles; ale, bread, biscuit, butter, candles, fish, flour, hams, matches, meal, rice, spirits, sugar, tobacco, tongues, and wines; and the decrease, which is principally under articles of food, points to an increase in the food supplies produced within the Island.

The following table, showing the value of articles imported in 1878–79 which were freed from duty in 1867, is given in continuation of similar tables in previous reports:—

—	1870.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.	1877–78.	1878–79.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines -	5,460	4,738	14,033	28,603	11,485	18,152	15,360	14,735	8,857	7,306
Mills - -	3,434	9,825	21,644	13,804	10,219	5,803	5,128	1,643	2,115	5,724
Other machinery -	7,844	11,420	5,165	9,149	5,026	11,331	2,434	11,443	3,113	3,402
Pans for boiling sugar.	4,676	4,301	6,052	4,603	2,839	3,649	1,318	2,134	2,483	2,124
Pipes for fluids -	2,493	2,165	1,801	19,687	1,801	1,830	1,955	3,755	2,095	1,193
Stills - -	1,698	1,878	1,906	6,076	3,986	6,848	3,153	1,619	1,880	433
Shooks of all sorts -	12,180	13,187	16,743	17,051	17,070	20,299	15,845	14,545	11,761	7,460
Staves - -	3,823	5,431	7,945	5,205	15,207	21,650	11,816	19,503	6,040	4,524
Wood hoops -	2,981	3,857	2,653	1,856	1,822	2,192	1,609	1,447	2,066	1,643
Iron, galvanized -	3,142	3,818	5,666	6,971	5,339	5,746	4,533	3,259	2,229	2,097
„ other manufactures.	1,933	84	56	—	462	—	5	—	381	—
Miscellaneous -	3,348	2,369	5,367	5,243	3,559	3,050	3,872	5,651	3,730	4,892
	53,012	63,073	89,031	118,248	78,815	100,550	67,028	79,734	46,750	40,798

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It will be noticed that there is a decrease in the total value of these articles when compared with the year immediately preceding, in which the importations were also small. The chief decrease is under shooks and staves, and in regard to this the fact pointed out last year that these articles are now largely made of native woods, instead of being imported, accounts for the smaller importation. The falling off generally in the value of this class of imported goods, chiefly used on estates, may be regarded as not unsatisfactory in view of the increase in estates' produce with this lesser outlay for fixed capital.

The value of the exports for each of the last 10 years is shown below :—

	Values.		
	Of Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1870	1,158,835	124,171	1,283,026
1870–71	1,196,532	52,153	1,248,685
1871–72	1,348,858	69,585	1,418,443
1872–73	1,144,173	81,838	1,226,011
1873–74	1,369,507	72,573	1,442,080
1874–75	1,359,868	50,616	1,410,484
1875–76	1,440,131	76,884	1,517,015
1876–77	1,419,625	39,004	1,458,669
1877–78	1,175,145	35,560	1,210,705
1878–79	1,262,869	94,702	1,357,571

showing an increase of 146,866*l.* over the preceding year and quite maintaining the average of the decade. Increase is to be observed in the exports of annotto, cocoanuts, fruits, horses, pimento, succades, tobacco, both cigars and unmanufactured, and dyewoods, fustic and logwood, as well as in the quantities of sugar and rum. The increase in these articles has been considerable, but a lower valuation having been made in regard to the latter it does not show a corresponding increase in value.

The exports of the principal staples for the last 10 years are shown in the following table :

Exports.	1870.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.	1877–78.	1878–79.
Sugar - - hhds.	30,747	37,010	35,353	28,428	28,398	27,847	29,074	30,569	26,066	29,151
Rum - - phns.	16,897	19,376	20,113	16,584	19,350	21,359	22,048	20,648	18,115	18,792
Coffee - - lbs.	9,047,284	5,508,989	9,510,739	7,199,144	10,311,427	7,136,307	8,649,049	9,532,887	9,411,662	10,852,127
Pimento - lbs.	5,243,109	6,857,830	5,140,898	6,024,551	5,762,256	6,440,040	4,474,690	6,670,603	6,195,109	5,881,176
Dyewoods — fustic and logwood - tons	84,744	59,951	80,699	52,952	65,241	84,523	77,229	47,697	36,070	58,658
Ginger - lbs.	680,492	632,031	590,766	815,659	1,181,789	1,490,845	1,613,764	1,097,863	908,603	769,636
Arrowroot - lbs.	6,343	5,820	13,193	2,470	1,636	21,983	21,152	3,514	4,599	7,982

The statement of the value of the fruit exported is shown below :—

	£
1871–72 - - -	6,190
1872–73 - - -	4,757
1873–74 - - -	10,397
1874–75 - - -	9,337
1875–76 - - -	20,526
1876–77 - - -	22,350
1877–78 - - -	39,451
1878–79 - - -	40,175

thus showing a continued increase of the trade even over the heavy export of the preceding year.

Agriculture.

The total area under cultivation on which the tax of 3*d.* per acre on cultivated lands is assessed has been returned this year at 120,596 acres as against 121,457 acres in the previous year, thus showing a small decrease due to a diminished cultivation in canes of 1,473 acres. But as four small sugar estates, making in all only 323 hogsheads, had been abandoned during the year, it may be assumed that cultivation had been restricted at the commencement of the year in the low state of the sugar market at that time, and that in the present improved prices for sugar the following year will show an increased area in cultivated canes.

In the cultivation of coffee there has been apparently a slight decrease of 123 acres, easily accounted for as the result of incorrect in-givings by taxpayers, but an increase of 1,142 and 499 acres respectively over the years 1875–76 and 1876–77.

In the face of this small apparent decrease in the area of cultivation the largest quantity of coffee for the last five years was exported during the year under review, as the following figures will show :—

	Cwt.
1879 - - -	96,715
1878 - - -	84,032
1877 - - -	85,115
1876 - - -	77,223
1875 - - -	63,717

being 32,998 cwt. more than in 1875, since which the quantity exported has risen yearly. The increase is attributable to more seasonable weather in some parts of the Island.

Similarly, though the cultivation of tobacco has decreased in extent since last year by 41 acres its export has largely increased, 135,051 lbs. of unmanufactured tobacco and 3,796 lbs. of cigars having been shipped as against 54,314 lbs. and 3,171 lbs. in the previous year.

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Cacao cultivation appears to be extending gradually and has been taken up as a new industry in the parish of St. Catherine, one of the districts of which was noted in the earliest days of the Colony for its fine cacao plantations.

It must be borne in mind when reading the statistics of the area of cultivation of coffee, tobacco, and cacao, that the acreage returned as growing a particular plant cannot be taken as the measure of its cultivation, owing to what may be termed the miscellaneous collection of roots, plants, &c. to be found growing altogether intermixed in a peasant's "ground."

The main food of the people called "Ground Provisions," which term among them includes plantains and bananas as well as roots like yams and cocos, is cultivated to the extent of 52,474 acres; and its cultivation has risen every year since 1875 when it was returned at 48,521 acres. These facts do not support the assertions sometimes made of the extent of mischief done by prædial larceny, which it is satisfactory to know has diminished and is gradually becoming less frequent. Unless the people who cultivate lands, however, keep a strict watch over their fields, it does seem unreasonable to be surprised at occasional theft. Cultivated fields in this Colony, often far away from the owner's residence and situated in the interior of the country, shut out from the view of man, are for considerable periods of time left at the mercy of the robber who has merely to walk in without the ceremony of opening a gate and help himself, retiring afterwards unseen with the spoils of his quest. It would be greatly to the advantage of the small cultivators if they could be induced to unite in districts for the mutual protection of their lands from thieves, who would then find it very difficult to exist without discovery. And perhaps the most effectual cure for the evil of prædial larceny will be found in the growth of the kind of public sentiment with the negro population which will lead to combination among themselves for its suppression, by affording the evidence necessary for the detection and punishment of crime which it is now often so difficult to obtain.

No returns are given of the acreage in fruit cultivation, indeed, unfortunately, fruit trees, which in the trade with America have now become a source of wealth, are not at all cultivated and may be said to grow wild, but looking at the quantity exported it is satisfactory to notice its very flourishing state. In Bananas the trade to the United States has greatly increased, a wonderful leap having been made during three years from 162,934 bunches in 1877 to 328,953 bunches in 1879.

In the minor products the cultivation of some has increased while that of others has decreased; these changes occur everywhere and require no comment.

Police.

The strength of this force on the 30th September 1879 stood at 711, composed of the inspector-general, 20 officers, 119 sub-officers

and 571 constables; from these must however be deducted 36 sub-officers and men on leave of absence, &c., and 49 recruits at the depôt. The constabulary were assisted by 185 rural headmen of police thus giving an effective police force of 810 men of all ranks.

The following table shows the arrests and convictions during the year and the per-centage the one bears to the other:—

——	Arrested and Summoned in 1878–79, and Remanents.	Convicted in 1878–79.	Per-centage.
Offences against the person -	4,886	2,459	50·33
Do. property -	4,192	2,040	48·66
Miscellaneous offences - -	8,075	4,806	59·51
Breaches of the Revenue Laws -	92	54	58·69
Naval and military offences (including offences against the Merchant Shipping Act) -	64	48	75·
	17,309	9,407	54·34

The adjudication in the different courts stood thus for the year:—

——	Convicted.	Acquitted.
In circuit courts - - -	233	91
In district courts - - -	2,221	1,028
In magistrates' courts - - -	6,953	3,294
Total - - - -	9,407	4,413

showing an excess of convictions over acquittals of 4,994.

The crime of prædial larceny seems to have declined during the year as shown by the following figures:—

——	Apprehensions.	Convictions.
1876–77 - - - -	1,465	840
1877–78 - - - -	1,852	998
1878–79 - - - -	1,377	634

In explanation of the large number of apprehensions for this class of offence in 1877–78, as compared with those for the year under review and for 1876–77, it may be stated that prior to the passing of Law 6 of 1877 people made the ineffectiveness of the then existing Law to put down the evil the excuse for not giving information to the police, and for not prosecuting in many instances, while the new Law was passed only during the latter half of 1876–77 and time was then allowed by the District Court

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Judges to permit of its provisions becoming generally known before inflicting to any extent the punishment of whipping. The second year marks the reverse, Law 6 of 1867 having then come fully into operation, and this year's figures are consistent with the belief that the fear of whipping has had decided effect on the criminal class itself. The rural headmen and police should be, and are, an important aid in the detection of this description of offence on the generally unwatched and otherwise unprotected cultivated lands.

During the year 330 habitual criminals were discharged from prison, one-fourth of whom, it is said, at once recruited the criminal population of the chief town of the Island, but the closeness of the supervision kept over them appears to have exercised a salutary check upon their operations, for but 12 cases of housebreaking and 18 cases of shop-breaking occurred in Kingston during the 12 months. Of these 12 were discovered and the detectives are still tracing the rest. The value of the goods reported to the police as having been stolen is but small only 159*l.* 9*s.* and in this connexion it may be observed that burglaries and shop-breaking in this country are generally very limited in extent. As has been often observed, the structure of most of the shops, and nearly all the houses, and their generally insecure fastenings, offer a temptation to an easy entrance which it is only surprising is so often resisted.

The following table shows the convictions for offences of a more serious nature committed throughout the whole Island during the year as compared with the two previous years:—

	1876–77.	1877–78.	1878–79.
Murder	3	4	2
Accessory to murder	—	—	6
Soliciting to commit murder	—	1	—
Attempt at murder	7	—	—
Manslaughter	7	6	9
Cutting and wounding	117	171	117
Assult with intent	15	10	10
Total	149	192	144

being 48 less than the previous year and 5 less than the year 1876–77.

Fifteen cases of suspected arson occurred during the year, but owing to the great difficulty in tracing this crime, or of bringing it home to the suspected offender, only three convictions were obtained.

The barbarous crime of cattle and horse mutilation is still prevalent to a certain extent. It may often, it is said, be traced to a bad feeling existing between the owner of a cattle run and the small landholders of the neighbourhood who will not effectively fence out the cattle, and although allowed redress for

damage done to their provision grounds by appeal to an assessor, acting under the District Court, they take redress into their own hands in moments of irritation.

There has been only one local breach of the peace by numbers during the year which calls for mention, and that was a slight affray between the East Indian immigrants and the Creole labourers at Holland Estate in St. Thomas parish, but it was promptly checked by the bookkeepers of the estate before much personal injury was done. Thirteen of the ringleaders were arrested and committed for trial, of whom nine were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

The Contagious Diseases Law appears to have been put into active operation during the year, but in dealing with results under this Law it must be remembered that prostitution is not so much as in the mother country practised by a distinct class whose members can be more easily identified and proceeded against.

It is a gratifying circumstance to learn from the Inspector-General's report so favourable an account as he gives of the conduct of the Police Force under his command during the year, and this circumstance, coupled with the fact that 97½ per cent. of the Force are able to read and write points, it would seem, to a great improvement in its personnel.

Prisons.

It is satisfactory to learn from the report of the Inspector of Prisons that a decrease of 215 has taken place in the number of prisoners in custody in all the prisons and gaols of the Island at the close of the year, as compared with last year, and that the number is less than in any of the four preceding years. The figures are as follows:—

1875	1,130	1878	1,269
1876	1,202	1879	1,054
1877	1,259		

The per-centage of prisoners to the population is remarkably small, being only about 207; larceny of goods (359 males and 35 females), and burglary and attempt (131 males and 9 females) being the most prevalent crimes.

Prædial larceny, the larceny of growing crops and of small stock, show together only a total of 63 in prison at the end of the year, as against 121 at the close of last year; this sensible decrease of nearly one half being due, it is thought by many, to the provisions of Law 6 of 1878 which prescribes whipping as a punishment for this class of crime.

The Inspector of Prisons reported that there were 154 prisoners flogged during the year for larceny, and of this number only two returned to prison, while in the previous year 228 were flogged

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of whom six returned to prison, showing a decrease in this year of 74 in the number who underwent flogging, and a reduction in the per-centage of those who returned from 2·6 to 1·3.

As compared with last year the first and second convictions were less, while convictions three times and over were larger. The following are the figures :—

	1878–79.		1877–78.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
First convictions - -	511	51	684	69
Second „ - - -	216	21	292	28
Three times - - -	191	36	162	34
	918	108	1,138	131

Labour.

The labour of the prisoners continues to be of the same description, viz., burning bricks and lime, quarrying, stone cutting, tailoring, shoemaking, brushmaking, coopering, &c., in the male penitentiary, and washing in the female division.

In the district and short term prisons, working on the public and parochial roads, breaking stones, pounding coir and shot drill.

There has been a falling off in the production of bricks, only 328,989 having been made this year against 932,723 last year; but this and the decrease in other branches of industrial labour is duly accounted for, amongst other causes, by the continuous rains during the whole year.

The lime kilns have delivered 22,617 bushels against 31,156 bushels in the previous year

The value of the bricks and lime was 2,184*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* this year against 3,884*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* in the previous year.

There has also been a falling off in the demand for ballast, and in the value of other branches of prison industry, with the exception of printing and binding, convict labour outside the prison, and washing. In this last item the value has risen from 216*l.* 9*s.* last year to 412*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* in the present year. It must be borne in mind that the satisfactory character of a prison as contributing towards its cost has the risk of being acquired at the expense of penal discipline.

Expenditure.

The gross expenditure of the penitentiaries and prisons for the year has been—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
General penitentiaries - -	13,479	7	5
Gaols, district and short term prisons -	7,837	17	0
A total of - -	21,317	4	5

The gross earnings in cash or its equivalent of the same institutions for the same period has been 10,466*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, leaving as the net cost of the prisoners 10,850*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*; or an average cost per caput of 9*l.* 5*s.*, an increase upon last year of 7*s.* 5½*d.*

The earnings for the year appear to have decreased in the General Penitentiary as compared with last year by 2,375*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*; but this is explained within a difference of 594*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* by the value of the labour given to the military authorities at Rocky Point in building new fortifications, which amounts to 1,255*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, and the value of the bricks and lime used in the new buildings at the penitentiary of 526*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*

Quite independent of these earnings and of unproductive labour done a considerable amount, estimated at 3,834*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, would have to be added to the earnings of the Penitentiary if services executed for the prisons were taken into account.

It may also be observed that the St. Catherine's District Prison has given labour to the value of 793*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* to work for the Imperial Government at Apostles Battery, and the Mandeville District Prison has also expended gratuitously labour of the value of 154*l.* 13*s.* upon the Mandeville Reservoir.

New Buildings.

During the year 48 new cells on the female side of the Penitentiary have been completed, thus permitting under ordinary circumstances the confinement of each female prisoner in a separate cell.

Health.

The mortality in the male side of the penitentiary has been at the rate of 43·24 per thousand, but in the female side no deaths occurred.

Malarial disease in the form of fevers of the intermittent and remittent type has been very prevalent during the year. As the surgeon explains, "the year has been marked by a very heavy "rainfall, which is of itself sufficient when alternating with hot dry "weather to increase malarial disease, especially in these localities "(the General Penitentiary upon the sea shore near Rae Town) "where the influence is endemic. Again, many persons have been "employed working at Rocky Point and the Palisadoes, surrounded "by swamps, and therefore particularly exposed to the influence of "malaria."

Religious Instruction.

The religious instruction of the prisoners at the Penitentiary is still punctually performed by the associated ministers, of the value of whose services the Inspector again records his sense The library of the Penitentiary still continues to be appreciated.

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Vital Statistics.

In reviewing the vital statistics of the past year it must be borne in mind that the period is the first complete year since the registration of births and deaths was inaugurated, and that many items of information much to be desired in connexion with a thoroughly worked system are still absent. Apart from this the Registrar General has presented for this year a remarkably clear report upon the working of his department, making the most of all the statistics which have been gathered. A short review of his report discloses many points of the deepest interest to the inhabitants of the Colony, and after a glance at the preliminary remarks of the report I will proceed to deal with them.

At the outset of the registration the benefits to be derived from it were not appreciated by the mass of the people, who always suspect some sinister motive when they are called upon to give any information about their private concerns. This was of course to be expected but by judicious advice it has, in the words of the Registrar General, "been rendered acceptable to all."

The class of people who have accepted office as registrars is respectable and likely to obtain the confidence of the people, but the exactitude which is required in attesting and recording statistics is referred to by the Registrar General as wanting in many cases, though now there is a change for the better in this respect.

The basis of calculation adopted by the Registrar General in the comparisons he has made in his report is computed upon a proportionate rate of increase in the population for the period between 1871 and 1878, estimated at 52,102, to that for the decennial period between 1861 and 1871, estimated at 64,890. The present population he estimates at 570,000.

There were 15,374 births and deaths in the half year to 1st October 1878, and 31,768 entries for the year ended 30th September 1879, making a total of 47,142 births and deaths for the eighteen months.

The Registrar General, notwithstanding this large number of registrations, does not lay claim to the record of all births and deaths, and he refers to the present extent of some of the districts as accounting in a measure for the escape of many from registration.

The natural increase of births over deaths, or natural increase of the population, was to 30th September 1878, (half year) 3,116; to 30th September 1879, 5,746.

These figures show a steady increase (taking into consideration what is said before of some events being unrecorded) of about 6,000 a year. Analysing these returns parochially it appears that in Kingston (the parish in which is situated the largest town in the Island) there is a decrease of 315 in the period, and in other

parishes the following figures show an excess of births over deaths per thousand:—

St. Andrew - - - -	9·3
St. Thomas - - - -	5·7
Portland - - - -	17·8
St. Catherine - - -	5·5
St. Mary - - - -	11·5
St. Ann - - - -	16·3
Clarendon - - - -	13·8
Manchester - - - -	20·3
St. Elizabeth - - - -	18·1
Westmoreland - - -	10·0
Hanover - - - -	7·8
St. James - - -	8·9
Trelawny - - - -	3·5

Although there is no doubt of the fact that density of population is conducive to an increased mortality rate, and that the hygienic condition of the town of Kingston cannot be regarded as satisfactory, there are other causes at work, such as the presence of a floating population belonging to country parishes who flock to Kingston to obtain employment, being unfit for prædial labour, and who in many cases fall sick and remain in the town to die. Besides these causes, the death rate in the several public institutions in Kingston, such as the Public Hospital, the Lunatic Asylum and the General Penitentiary, must be taken into account.

Marriages.

The registration of marriages was not placed under the Registrar's Department until the passing of Law 15 of 1879, and the Registrar General reports that the existing records had not yet been taken over.

Births.

The following figures are given as to the birth rate:—

During 6 months to 30th September 1878, 9,245. Birth rate 33·1 per 1,000 living.

During the year to 30th September 1879, 18,757. Birth rate 33·5 per 1,000 living.

Of those born in 1878–79, 9,558 were males and 9,199 females, showing an excess of 359 males. But the deaths of male children being more than that of females by 207 the excess is reduced to 152.

Of the parishes St. Elizabeth yields the highest number of births and St. Thomas the lowest; in connexion with this latter circumstance it may be noticed, as will be seen further on, that the parish of St Thomas has unenviable pre-eminence in the register of illegitimate births. It cannot be denied that the two things as a rule go together in Jamaica. The high death rate is mainly due to the

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neglected condition of the offspring of illicit intercourse; the mother on whom the burden of supporting a child is generally cast being unable to supply it with sufficient care and food. Another contributing cause to infant mortality is the gross incompetence of those who act as midwives.

Illegitimacy.

Out of 18,757 children born in 1878–79, 11,125 were illegitimate, or 59·3 per 100. Lamentable as this proportion is, it is only fair to point out that it is not greater than that among the negro population in other West India Colonies. I observe that it is stated in a recent report from a Commission appointed in Antigua that the rate is as high as 68·4 per 100 in that Island.

Of the parishes on the list, Manchester figures last, and St. Thomas has a sad pre-eminence. Much must be ascribed to the relative spiritual and educational advantages which these parishes have enjoyed in the past; their relative positions looked at in this light are seen to be singularly dissimilar, and are shown by the educational grants earned and the ability possessed by informants of births and deaths to sign the registers by writing their names. In St. Thomas 81 per cent. are marksmen. In Manchester only 66·6 per cent., the lowest proportion for the whole Island excepting the city of Kingston.

Death Rate.

The rate of infant mortality during the year has been as follows —

Under one year - - -	3,066
Under five years - - -	4,923

rate per 100 births being 16·3 and 26·2 respectively.

The following figures show the death rate. Half year to 30th September 1878, 6,129 deaths.

Males.	Females.
3,124	3,005

Death rate—21·9.

Year ending 30th September 1879, 13,011 deaths.

Males.	Females.
6,609	6,402

Death rate—23·3.

Causes of Death.

The Registrar General following the classification of the Registrars General of England and Ireland has divided the deaths into

five classes, and the following are the particulars for the year 1878–79 :—

Zymotic.	Constitutional.	Local.	Developmental.	Violent Deaths.	Not ascertained or ill-defined.
3,523	1,658	2,688	3,037	267	1,838
27·1	12·7	20·7	23·3	2·0	14·2

In thus classifying the diseases the Registrar General has brought to notice a difficulty he experiences which it is not easy to find a remedy for, in the absence of proper medical certificates of the cause of death. There are many cases of disease which are treated without the aid of a doctor, often because the people in the country districts especially are disinclined to incur the expense of medical attendance, or prefer the services of bush-doctors, of whom there are many scattered throughout the Island.

Of diseases the most frequent appear to have been of the zymotic class, the deaths ascribed to this class being 27·0 per cent. of the total mortality.

In this class diarrhœa and dysentery furnished 618 deaths, of which 185 or nearly 30 per cent. of the whole number for the Island occurred in the parishes of Hanover and St. James, the heaviest portion of the mortality being registered in the December quarter of 1878.

Rheumatism is recorded as the cause of 142 deaths, a proportion of nearly 11 to each 1,000 of deaths from all causes.

Small-pox only marked its existence by three deaths.

It is pleasent to see that yellow fever was only fatal in six cases, two of which occurred at Port Royal, one at the Public Hospital and one at the Penitentiary in Kingston, and two in country districts ; all these were sporadic cases.

In constitutional diseases the highest recorded is of phthisis or pulmonary consumption which marks 74 out of 1,000 deaths, or a total of 967 in the year. Possibly some of these cases are wrongly placed under this head, which were so placed on unprofessional information, as the Registrar General suggests, but a good deal of this class of disease undoubtedly exists in the chief town of the Island, especially amongst females, and a good deal of it in the opinion of the health officer of Kingston is due to overcrowding.

Dropsy furnishes 555 cases, but in this case also it is open to doubt whether they are correctly classified.

Under local disease 2,688 cases or 20·6 per cent. of the total deaths appear. The most noticeable of these are, paralysis 130, convulsions 198, trismus 102, brain diseases, &c. 116, and infantile convulsions (an unsatisfactory description the Registrar General thinks) 832.

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Heart disease is given as the cause of 160 deaths, and 64 deaths occurred from Bright's disease. Liver disease occupies a low place, with only 39 cases.

The large number of ulcer cases is noticeable, being 278. To this class of disease the negro population is very subject.

Of developmental diseases amounting to 3,037, or 23·3 of the total deaths, among infants premature birth furnished 109 deaths, teething 196, Infantile diseases 1,306, and among adults, child-birth 96, and adding other cases connected with the event, 24 in all, making a total of 120 cases, equal to the death of six mothers to every 1,000 children born alive. This mortality is regarded as high, and is very likely attributable to the want of skill of the midwives already alluded to.

Under violent deaths the figures are happily low, being 218 deaths, the chief of which are drowning 72, fractures and contusions 56, burns and scalds 44.

Homicide is rare, six cases only being returned.

In closing his report the Registrar General mentions a plan that he has adopted for furthering vaccination which must prove very useful. He serves informants of births with a notice stating the requirements of the law, and submits quarterly returns giving particulars of births to the several medical officers.

General.

The year under review was unfortunately one of great depression in trade and despondency in respect of sugar cultivation; in the one case Jamaica only shared what was felt more or less throughout the world, in the other the dejection was attributable in a great measure it is alleged to the competition of bounty assisted sugars in the home markets. The prices of produce had an upward tendency for the last few months of the year, but this temporary rise was counted as little in a battle extending over so long a period as has been consumed in struggling against what is regarded as unfair competition.

Apart from this question, however, I fear that elements of success are sometimes wanting which it does not require international agreement to supply.

An unusual amount of rain fell during the year, and the public health was as a not unfrequent consequence much disturbed by the prevalence of fevers, though not of a severe character.

Turning to measures for the advancement of the country, it may here be briefly stated that during the year a system of telegraphs has been introduced, and soon will complete the circuit of the Island; the Jamaica Railway has been taken over by the Government from the railway company, and is in course of re-construction; while extensions of the line have been determined on and are about to be commenced.

Speaking generally of the condition of the peasantry of this Colony, it may fairly be said that as a body they are improving

materially and socially. The benefits of education are fairly appreciated, and must, though perhaps for a time almost imperceptibly, yet certainly tell in the course of years; and the accessories of civilised life are more eagerly sought after now than formerly.

With telegraphs, railway extensions, and coastal steam communication, for the establishment of which round the Island steps are now being taken, in addition to the facilities for communication with other countries which the Colony possesses in a degree uncommon in dependencies, the people of the interior will naturally by degrees be brought more into contact with the outer world and with people from other countries. It is not unreasonable to think that the masses of the community may thus acquire, by the force of imitation and example, the tastes and habits of modern civilisation in a period of time short compared with that which has been needed for the painful growth and evolution of older communities.

It is no cause for wonder that the first 40 years of freedom, under different circumstances, has hitherto failed to give them those habits and tastes in any marked degree. Time is required for their diffusion even under favourable conditions. The absence of means of intercourse between all classes of the community has been anything but a favourable condition, and is a want now felt and generally recognised. It is indeed an evil of no small magnitude, which it is hoped that measures now taken will tend to remove.

The peace of the Colony was not disturbed during the year, and the entire absence of anything like political manifestation among the mass of the people in this and many past years may be taken, I think, to indicate their general contentedness. Where their passions are not inflamed by demagogues they are well satisfied to leave matters outside their personal and material interests to be arranged by those placed in authority over them.

(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE,
Governor.

King's House, August 1880.

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No. 6.

Lieutenant-Governor ROBINSON, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Barbados, November 3, 1880.

Forwarded.

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Lieutenant-Governor HARLEY to Lieutenant-Governor ROBINSON, C.M.G.

SIR, Government House, October 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of Grenada, together with the following abstract of its contents.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year 1879 amounted to (being the largest ever collected) 36,034*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure to 36,645*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of 610*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

The revenue for 1879 was 36,034*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* and that for 1878 was 34,078*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, showing an increase of 1,956*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*

This increase occurs principally under the head of customs and excise licenses, assessed taxes and stamp duties, and is mainly due to the steadily increasing trade and prosperity of the Colony, and the better and more rigid collection of revenue under the several heads.

A table is appended, showing the increases and decreases of the principal sources of revenue and expenditure in 1879 as compared with 1878.

Revenue.

	1878.			1879.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	15,304	19	1	17,996	14	6
Excise	4,484	4	11	5,277	18	4
Licenses	2,416	17	0	2,383	12	6
Sanitary	329	7	4	459	17	0
Assessed Taxes	4,516	8	3	4,944	9	1
Rents	268	6	8	324	3	9
Fees	120	17	10	115	16	3
Fines	803	2	4	873	9	9
Post Office	307	12	1	297	18	1
Refunds	—			625	11	1
Escheat	2,847	5	7	19	4	8
Sales	—			34	9	4
Stamp Act	2,123	8	9	1,909	19	7
Contribution from immigration	—			400	0	0
Miscellaneous	555	16	11	37	7	7
Total	34,078	6	9	36,034	11	5

Expenditure.

	1878.			1879.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Ecclesiastical	1,447	16	2	1,220	6	0
Judicial	3,676	2	7	3,910	3	9
Civil	4,023	9	1	4,152	18	10
Education	1,248	4	0	1,219	16	0
Sanitary	3,458	10	10	3,444	18	3
Poor relief	3,177	5	6	2,620	15	0
Police	2,504	10	5	2,769	18	9
Gaols and prisons	1,079	2	11	1,046	14	6
Works and repairs	4,080	18	11	10,957	9	8
Rates and taxes	138	16	10	141	4	4
Refunds	—			46	13	8
Inland post	388	3	8	383	1	6
Telegraph	541	2	6	576	4	9
Non-effective	94	8	4	—		
Ice subsidy	143	6	8	96	13	4
Steam navigation	30	0	0	—		
Hire of buildings	—			35	0	0
Escheat	417	6	9	400	0	0
Furniture, Government House	—			96	16	9
Printing and stationery	401	0	7	368	19	11
Pensions and annuities	—			372	12	10
Militia	129	8	8	489	13	11
Miscellaneous	389	16	0	2,283	6	1
Total	27,405	10	5	36,645	1	10

Expenditure.

The expenditure in 1879 amounted to 36,645*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* being apparently 6,635*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* in excess of the estimated expenditure. This is not so, as the amount actually over expended, and for which it becomes necessary to provide by supplementary appropriation, is 2,274*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*; as it had been agreed that the cost of the reconstruction of the old Military Hospital into a prison which was estimated at 3,500*l.* was to be paid out of the surplus revenue of 1878.

The chief items of expenditure were those on "Roads and Bridges" and "Works and Buildings," on which there was an excess over the preceding year of 6,876*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony amounted on the 31st December to 9,000*l.*, being the unpaid balance of the immigration loan of 10,000*l.*, contracted in 1877, and 1,000*l.* for water works, St. George's, which is repayable in 20 years.

Public Works.

The total amount expended on public works during 1879 was 10,957*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, of this there was expended on—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Dunfermline and St. John's bridges -	561	9	9
New gaol on Richmond Hill - -	2,922	12	5
New bonding warehouse - -	564	8	10
Ulcer Ward - - - -	180	10	3
Yaws Hospital - - - -	85	17	2
Other public buildings - - -	1,082	5	5
Fort Cottage - - - -	144	7	7
Doctor's quarters - - -	249	10	0

There was 5,175*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* expended on roads and bridges, there being 7 miles macadamised and general repairs made to, speaking in round numbers, nearly 125 miles of road, which gives an average cost of 39*l.* per mile. There were two new bridges built, and 30 culverts made.

Education.

There are 29 schools in the Colony, viz.: 14 Anglican, 5 Wesleyan, 10 Roman Catholic, with a total of 3,166 scholars. The voluntary contributions amounted to 55*l.* and the total cost to 1,219*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

Legislative Council.

There have been no permanent changes in the Legislative Council during the year.

Civil Establishment.

Captain Irwin C. Maling appointed Colonial Secretary, Mr. Mitchell having retired on a pension of 366*l.* per annum. Edward Kyran Moylan, Esquire, appointed Attorney General, succeeding Mr. Sheriff, appointed Attorney General of the Bahamas. Dr. Charles L. Cunningham, Protector of Immigrants, vice Mr. S. P. Denham, H. Thackwray, Esquire, Inspector of Police, on the resignation of Mr. Henry Sharpe. John Augustus Henwood, Esq., Police Magistrate of the Southern District in the room of Mr. Killikelly deceased.

Legislation.

During the year 1879, 25 Ordinances were passed by the Legislature of this Colony, the more important of which are the following:—

Ordinance No. 1.—" An Ordinance to make better provision " for the collection of public fees by the use of stamps, and to impose " certain stamp duties."

This Ordinance repealed the Stamp Acts of 1875 and 1876, it having been found necessary to make more full and ample prevision for the payment of duties under those Acts, and also to provide for the more convenient sale to the public of stamps.

Ordinance No. 2.—"To make better provision for the regulation and management of the port and harbour of Grenville."

This measure abolished the Harbour Commissioners, who had the entire control and management of this port, and the expenditure of its revenues, and vested them in the Governor and the Executive Council.

Ordinance No. 3.—"An Ordinance to make better provision for the collection of revenue in the out parishes."

This Ordinance provides for the more prompt and efficient collection of revenue, and its transmission to the Treasurer, so as to avoid the possibility of loss from neglect or otherwise.

Ordinance No. 5.—"To amend the West India and Panama Telegraph Company Transfer Ordinance, 1878."

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Limited, mentioned in Act 107 of 1871, having gone into liquidation in England, and its property, plant, rights, privileges, &c. having been acquired by another company of the same name, incorporated January 9th, 1877, this Law is to transfer to the new company the powers, authorities, and privileges in this Island formerly exercised by the old company, and to impose upon the new company the like obligations, restrictions, and liabilities to which the old company was liable.

Ordinance No. 7.—"To make provision for the admission of the Island of Grenada into the general postal union."

Ordinance No. 8.—"To extend the summary jurisdiction of justices of the peace with respect to illegal distress."

The object of this Ordinance was to extend and make applicable the provisions of Act No. 138, clause 54, as to illegal distresses for rent of land in like manner as illegal distresses for rent of houses and lodgings are made punishable.

Ordinances Nos. 9 and 10.—"To amend the Law with respect to Coroners," and "To abolish the offices of clerks to the Magistrates."

As these two Ordinances were enacted with the same object I have taken them together. It was considered expedient to make the police magistrate of each district act as coroner, and also to discharge the duties of clerk, these offices were therefore abolished and the duties transferred to the police magistrate, who receives a small allowance for these extra services.

Ordinance No. 11.—"To regulate and amend the Law relating to the proceedings and the duties of justices of the peace in this Colony.

This measure is a very important one, and was introduced after the Act had been in operation for some time at Barbados. I am glad to be able to report that it works satisfactorily. This Ordinance repeals Act No. 76 of 1864 and No. 83 of 1866, which were found to be both tedious and cumbrous in their application.

Ordinance No. 12.—"To provide for the better constitution of juries, and to simplify trial by jury."

This Ordinance abolished grand juries, and provides for future proceedings; it also repeals Act No. 135.

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Ordinance No. 13.—"To authorise the appointment of certain "medical officers."

It having become necessary to repeal the Medical Aid Act, 1877, owing to many defects having been found in it, this Ordinance was enacted, and makes more full provision for the performance by medical officers of their duties, and also provides for the appointment of a principal medical officer, which has hitherto been much needed. It has since been superseded by the Legislation of last session, "The Medical Ordinance, 1880," which it was found necessary and expedient to enact in a more comprehensive form.

Ordinance No. 15.—"To make provision for the admission of "the Island of Grenada into the general postal union."

This Ordinance repeals Ordinance No. 7 of 1879, as the second clause was not considered sufficiently definite as to the liability of "the Colony.

Ordinance No. 18.—"To prevent the unauthorised enlistment "of immigrant labourers for foreign ports."

This Law was passed under instructions from the Secretary of State, consequent upon information received with reference to certain action which had been taken by certain speculators in Cuba to obtain free labour from the West Indian Islands upon terms of indenture for that Colony.

Ordinance No. 19.—"To authorise the transfer of lunatics "from or to this Island to or from any one of the other Islands "of the Windward Group."

The object of this Ordinance was to afford relief to the Islands of St. Vincent and Tobago for the accommodation of their lunatics, for whom they had not the necessary means of suitably providing; they have now been received here and are lodged in the Lunatic Asylum with every necessary comfort and care, and with the most attentive and humane medical treatment and supervision, indeed this Ordinance may be regarded as most beneficial in its results.

Ordinance No. 20.—"To amend an Act entitled "An Act to "'authorise the establishment of police districts and the appoint-"'ments of police magistrates and clerks of magistrates for the "'Island of Grenada and its Dependencies.'"

The Law was passed for the purpose of equalizing the districts and the duties to be performed by the several police magistrates of the Colony, as well as to fix the days upon which courts should be held in each Parish.

Ordinance No. 22.—"To consolidate and amend the Laws to immigrants."

This Law repeals all previously existing Immigration Laws and re-enacts them, so far as was necessary for the carrying out of the Secretary of State's instructions, and assimilates them so far as local circumstances would permit with those of British Guiana and Trinidad.

Population.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December 1879 was 42,914, the net increase over 1878 being 679.

The census of the 1st May 1871 shows - -	37,684
Estimated population to 31st December 1878 - -	42,235
Natural increase during 1879 1·61 - - -	679
Total estimated population for 1879 - - -	42,914

Or equal to 322 to the square mile.

The number of deaths were 1,065, whilst the births registered amounted to 1,744, thus showing an excess of births over deaths of 679.

The death rate for the year was 2·52, while that of births was 4·13.

It is with pleasure I observe that the number of marriages solemnized has increased by 50 per cent during the year under report.

The state of the public health has been good, and contrasts favourably with that of the last three years, the usual malaria, fever, and dysentery, which during the previous year was so prevalent, having abated much.

Imports and Exports.

IMPORTS.

	1878.	1879.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - - - -	57,431 5 11	84,186 15 11
British North America - - -	1,491 12 5	2,299 1 3
British West Indies - - - -	53,549 1 8	54,080 4 7
United States - - - -	14,724 11 4	12,695 9 11
Foreign countries - - - -	3,489 15 8	3,271 4 2
	130,686 7 0	156,532 15 10
		130,686 7 0
Imports in excess of 1879 - - - - -		25,846 8 10

EXPORTS.

	1878.	1879.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - - - -	150,775 17 6	137,842 7 5
British West Indies - - - -	14,534 5 10	7,887 1 10
United States - - - -	—	—
Foreign countries - - - -	3,947 15 3	3,697 8 3
	149,258 2 7	149,426 17 6
		149,258 2 7
Excess in 1879 - - - - -		168 14 11

GRENADA.

It will be seen that the value of imports in 1879 exceeded those of 1878 by 25,846*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* thus again bearing out the steady prosperity of the Colony.

The annexed statement shows the imports of 1848, and those of 1878 and 1879.

	1848.	1878.	1879.
Bread - - - pounds	57,127	143,359	129,149
Flour - - - barrels	6,272	13,305	11,758
Rice - - - - pounds	94,918	704,270	458,553
Brandy, gin, &c. - - gallons	1,467	8,489	11,714
Tobacco - - - pounds	38,272	66,971	67,194
Lumber - - - feet	1,466,721	1,795,500	1,943,219

These six articles being in general use serve as an example. All others having increased in the same proportion.

I append a table of exports for the years 1878 and 1879 of our staple products:

	1878.	1879.
Sugar - - - - -	2,580 hhds.	2,398 hhds.
Cocoa - - - - -	24,394 bags.	22,095 bags.
Spices - - - - -	50,800 lbs.	47,020 lbs.
Rum - - - - -	113 puns.	243 puns.
Cotton - - - - -	433½ bales.	511½ bales.

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered in 1879 was 477, with an aggregate tonnage of 66,604. The number cleared was 485 with a tonnage of 61,893.

Gaols and Prisons.

There were in 1879 238 committals, the daily average number in prison being 48, and the daily average cost per head 1*s.* 3¼*d.* The total cost of the establishment including the pay of the Staff was 1,046*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

Criminal Statistics.

This return shows an increase in the number of cases reported over that of last year of 478, and they are as follows:—

Assaults and other offences against the person -	394
Malicious injuries to property - - -	15
Prædial larceny - - - -	28
Offences against property other than above -	227
Offences against the Revenue Acts - -	258
Other offences - - - - -	434

In the superior courts there were 40 cases dealt with, 26 of which were convicted, 5 acquitted, and 9 thrown out by the grand jury; 1 for rape, 9 for other offences against the person, 1 for malicious injury to property, 18 prædial larceny, 2 unnatural crimes, and 9 for miscellaneous offences, making a total of 40.

Hospitals.

The following Government institutions are included under the head:—

1. The Colony Hospital.
2. Yaws Hospital.
3. Ulcer Ward.
4. District Hospital, Saint Andrew's.
5. District Hospital, Saint Patrick's.

And the following are the statistics for those institutions for this year.

Colony Hospital.

Number of inmates on 1st January -	87
Admitted during the year - -	560
Died - - - - -	44
Discharged - - - -	477

Yaws Hospital.

Number of inmates on the 1st January -	13
Admitted during the year - -	60
Died - - - - -	1
Discharged - - - -	54

Ulcer Ward.

Number in hospital on the 1st January -	40
Admitted during the year - -	150
Died - - - - -	8
Discharged - - - -	175

District Hospital, St. Andrew's.

Number of inmates on the 1st January -	13
Admitted during the year - -	103
Died - - - - -	2
Discharged - - - -	110

District Hospital, St. Patrick's.

Number of inmates on 19th August (the date on which this hospital was opened) - - - -	6
Admitted during the year - -	20
Died - - - - -	—
Discharged - - - -	15

Lunatic, Leper Asylums, and Poor House.

Lunatic Asylum.

Number of inmates on the 1st January -	32
Admitted during the year - -	15
Died - - - - -	2
Discharged - - - -	10

Leper Asylum.

Number of inmates on the 1st January -	3
Admitted during the year - -	3
Died - - - - -	—
Discharged - - - -	—

Poor House.

Number of inmates on the 1st January -	36
Admitted during the year - -	61
Died - - - - -	20
Discharged - - - -	41

The total cost of these institutions, exclusive of the medical officer's salaries, during the year was 3,781*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* and the daily average cost of the inmates of the Colony Hospital, Yaws Hospital, and Ulcer Ward was 1*s.* 1*d.*, and that of the Lunatic and Leper Asylums 1*s.* 3¼*d.* and the Poor House 1*s.* 0½*d.* per day.

Police.

The force consists of one inspector, one superintendent sergeant, four sergeants, four corporals, 42 constables. Uniforms were supplied to the force this year for the first time free of charge. The total expenditure under this head amounted to 2,769*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*

Militia.

The Militia corps have during this year been most regular in their training, and neither efficiency nor interest has diminished, and is at its full strength.

Pensions.

Samuel Mitchell, Esquire, Colonial Secretary, retired on a pension of 366*l.* per annum.

Agriculture.

The returns show the number of acres under cultivation to be 18,651, of which 7,522¼ are in cocoa and coffee, 3,722½ in sugar, and 7,406¼ in ground provisions, such as yams, tamiras, &c., &c., 6,330 in pasture, and 33,768 acres are estimated as uncultivated.

The following is a table showing the principal items of produce which have been exported during the last two years:

Produce.	1878.	1879.
Pounds of sugar, unmanufactured - -	5,424,881	4,863,391
„ coffee - - - -	9,871	12,667
„ cotton - - - -	69,988	46,438
„ cocoa - - - -	1,817,813	1,945,289
„ tous les moirs - - -	—	30
„ arrowroot - - - -	20	40
Gallons of rum - - - -	47,360	83,683
„ molasses - - - -	7,448	1,510
„ shrub - - - -	—	360
„ lime juice - - -	10	20

Immigration.

There have been no fresh immigrants introduced during this year. The revenue collected to be placed to the credit of this special fund was 6,573*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, and the total expenditure was 6,080*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* which leaves a balance to the credit of this fund of 492*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

It is with pleasure that I report that the condition of the East Indian immigrants located in this Colony was during the year good, they being healthy, contented, and prosperous. The death rate of these people was 1·5 per cent., and will bear comparison with the death rate of either Creole or European, while the birth rate was 4·2 per cent.

The annexed table shows the statistics of this department:—

Number introduced ex "Hermion" 1877	-	458 souls.
Deaths during the year 1879	-	7 „
Births	-	18 „
Total number in the Colony on the 31st December 1879	-	458 „

Post Office.

The number of letters, &c. which passed through the post office in 1879 were as follows:—

——	Letters.	Papers.	Books.	Totals.
Received - - -	22,817	14,960	2,799	40,576
Sent - - - -	21,138	6,368	1,031	28,537
				69,113

The revenue of the post office is estimated to have been 823*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, while the expenditure was 1,046*l.* 5*s.* or 222*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* more than revenue. Money orders were issued to the value of 872*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the Island during the last year was 92·01 inches.

General Remarks.

The year 1879 may be considered a very satisfactory one. The Colony has continued to advance steadily in prosperity, the revenue has been the largest ever collected, and the crop of cocoa and spices the largest ever grown.

There have been many important public works completed during this year, and the general condition of roads much improved.

Ordinance No. 19, "The Lunatic Transfer Ordinance," legalises the reception in the asylum of this Colony of the lunatics of the other Islands of this group and those of St. Vincent and Tobago have been received.

GRENADA.

It is with pleasure that I see the extending cultivation creeping fast up the hill sides, the erection of labourers' houses of an extra substantial character, and the very marked evidences of content and prosperity among this portion of the population.

The system of education is, I regret to say, far from satisfactory, and that owing to the numerous questions of importance that have engrossed the consideration of the Government during the year under report, it has proved impossible for me during this year to carry out my intention of improving and placing on a more satisfactory footing the educational system of this Colony, although I have had the schools inspected and reported upon by a very competent authority, the head master of Harrison's College, Barbados, who was especially employed for this service.

The condition and management of the medical institutions continue to be most satisfactory, and reflect much credit on the medical officers in charge of them.

Government House and out offices are not in a good state of repair, and it will be necessary at no distant date to hand the buildings over to the surveyor of works for at least six months, to be put in order, as little or no repairs have been done for the last five years except those absolutely necessary.

This being the second year that the Blue Book for Grenada has been printed, I have made many improvements in its form and also in its publication generally, and it now does, I venture to hope, credit to our local printers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. W. HARLEY,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency
Governor Robinson, C.M.G.,
Barbados.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 7.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
October 19, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1879, together with President Porter's report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

SIR, Montserrat, October 13, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to his Excellency the Governor the Blue Book of this Presidency for 1879, accompanied by my report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
President.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary
of the Leeward Islands, Antigua.

Finance.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1877	5,517	5,173
1878	5,637	5,474
1879	5,698	5,552

Average revenue, 5,614*l.*; expenditure, 5,399*l.*

Trade.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1877	25,071	23,065
1878	27,311	30,239
1879	26,495	35,685

Average,—imports, 26,295*l.*; exports, 32,963*l.*

MONTSERRAT.

These statistics show a considerable balance of trade in favour of this Island, but I apprehend that a margin must be allowed for the entering by importers of somewhat moderate values, when paying *ad valorem* duty.

Agriculture.

I have nothing important or new to report under this head.

Legislation.

Two Ordinances of great importance to the health and comfort of the community generally were passed in 1879, viz.: "No. 5 of "1879. An Ordinance to provide for the raising by debentures "of a sum of 3,000*l.* for the construction of waterworks in this "Island;" and "No. 11 of 1879. An Ordinance to provide for "the construction and management of waterworks for the town "of Plymouth and its vicinity."

Public Health.

During 1879 the general health of the population was good; the births (less still-births) amounted to 455, and the deaths to 241; about the usual proportion.

Although in the character of their food, dwellings, and dress there has been during the last few years throughout the labouring class a perceptible improvement, I regret to say that the loathsome and contagious disease, yaws, has gradually developed itself to a degree, that threatens to make the mode of dealing with it a matter of grave consideration.

At present persons afflicted with yaws are treated at their own habitations by the district medical officers, but the destitution of some of these poor people has of late compelled me to sanction their being quartered in one of the detached buildings of the spacious and healthily placed poor house premises. It is not improbable that, ere long, this small extent of accommodation will be insufficient, and that the Government may find it imperative to incur special expense, not only with regard to yaws patients whose poverty compels them to ask for admission to the poor house, but with respect also to persons who at present remain in their own places of abode, careless of how they by contact, communicate the disease to others.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
President.

DOMINICA.

No. 8.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
October 15, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1879, together with a report thereon from President Eldridge.

I also forward a statement of assets and liabilities of the Presidency on the 31st December last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

President's Office, September 18, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1879, with the following remarks as to the condition of the Presidency.

The slight improvement in the finances noticed in my report of 1878, gathered greater strength as the year advanced, and signs of health and vitality may now, I trust, be recorded with a just hope of their permanency.

The revenue, although exceeding the estimates by some 800*l.*, was insufficient to meet the supplementary votes, amounting to 1,653*l.*, while on the other hand, the previous year's balance was not entirely consumed.

The following statement discloses the financial result of the year:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January 1st 1880, balance in hand				1,079	13	7½
Ordinary revenue - -	19,023	11	5½			
Arrears, 1879, received -	72	11	11			
				19,096	3	4½
Receipts from other sources:—						
Savings Bank - - -	175	4	1			
Administrator of unrepresented estates - - -	60	3	9½			
Police reward fund - -	48	5	8	283	13	6½
Carried forward - -				20,459	10	6½

					£	s.	d.
	Brought forward	-		-	20,459	10	6½
DOMINICA.	Ordinary expenditure inclusive of outlay on Yaws hospitals -	19,736	6	2½			
	Arrears 1879, paid - -	237	2	9½			
	Payments in special account:—						
	Savings Bank - - -	150	0	5½			
	Administrator of unrepresented estates - - -	2	12	2			
					20,126	1	7½
	Balance as per Blue Book -	-		-	333	8	11
	The liabilities of the Presidency are as follows:—						
	Savings Bank -	114	3	7			
	Police reward fund - -	70	16	8			
	Administrator of unrepresented estates - - -	93	14	3½			
	Hurricane loan - -	792	13	4			
	Waterworks loan, less sinking fund - - -	5,417	10	0			
	Yaws loan - - -	1,000	0	0			
					7,488	17	10½
	The outstanding accounts may be estimated at about -	-		-	480	0	0
					7,968	17	10½
	Escheat fund - -	-		-	614	15	2½
					8,583	13	1
	Less in hands of Treasurer -	-		-	333	11	8
					8,250	1	5

The last instalment but one of the hurricane loan was paid this year, its final extinction will relieve the Treasury of an annual payment of 800*l.*

The expenditure on the repairs of the public works (principally the police barracks and jetty) was exceptionally large. The excessive rains during the year caused extensive injury to the roads, the gradients of which are more or less steep.

I append tables showing the revenue and expenditure (A.), the principal sources of revenue and expenditure (B. and C.), the imports and exports (D.), the principal, articles of export (E.), the shipping and the tonnage (F.), for the past nine years.

Legislation.

Ten Bills were passed by the Legislature during the year. The usual fiscal enactments were renewed for triennial periods, with slight alterations in the schedule of the import duties; the

Road Bill was extended for a short period in order to perfect a new measure, and the Medical Aid Bill, with important amendments, after protracted discussions and with much diversity of opinion, was passed for five years.

Education.

The Inspector-General reports—

" In Dominica, however, the schools have greatly increased and are still increasing, both in efficiency and in the number of the scholars, and in daily average attendance, in proof of which I subjoin the following tabulated statement which speaks for itself.

Dominica.	No. of Schools.	Daily Average Attendance.	No. of Schools classed.	No. of Schools failed.
1875	23	600	8	15
1879	44	1,205	15	9 "

The expenses for this department amounted to 954*l.*

Population.

I can offer no reliable information on this head in consequence of the Registration Act being unworkable. Legislation on this important point is much required. The forthcoming census will afford an excellent opportunity for remodelling the defective Act.

Savings' Bank.

The advantages of this institution are gradually being developed. The financial position of the bank is as follows:—

		£		£	*s.*	*d.*
18	depositors under	5	-	32	8	0½
3	" "	10	-	20	2	4½
9	" "	25	-	135	16	11¾
1	" "	50	-	30	0	0
—	" "	100	-		—	
1	" "	200	-	150	18	8½
				369	6	1¼

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Colonial Bank on interest	320	0	0
Treasurer's hands -	49	6	1¼
	369	6	1¼

Inland Post.

The difficulties of communication in a mountainous country like Dominica have been somewhat overcome by the establishment of an inland post, which traverses the principal portion of the Island twice a week. The postage being one penny for letters, and a halfpenny for newspapers, and threepence for parcels. Its utility may be tested from the following figures.

Letters sent and received - -	3,863
Newspapers - - - -	815
Parcels - - - -	524
Money - - - -	746*l.*

Making a reasonable allowance for the facilities afforded to the revenue and police departments this service is self-supporting.

Money Orders.

Money orders drawn last year were 119, amounting to 530*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, the premium being 15*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* against the cost of remittance and payment on and by the General Post Office of 16*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*

Sanitary.

A difference of opinion exists as to the progress made, if any, with reference to the eradication of the yaws disease; on one point there can be no difference, and that the cost of the upkeep of the hospital is a heavy drain on the finances, especially when the maintenances of the poor, the lunatics, and the inmates of the infirmary are added thereto, making a total of 3,423*l.*, or about one-sixth of the annual expenditure.

The last annual report from the Medical Officer gives the following startling figures as to admissions and discharges into the hospitals from October 1877 to December 1879.

Admitted - - -	1,271	
Born in hospital - - -	6	
	——	1,277
Discharged - - -	1,039	
Absconded - - -	59	
Died - - - -	56	
In hospital - - -	123	
	——	1,277

The re-admissions will be under five per centum, and it must be remembered that the inmates upon their discharge return to their close, damp, earth-floored cabins, to the same habits, and to their unvarying diet; all fruitful sources of the disease.

In addition to these figures, the testimony of independent witnesses (not cursory observers), whose duties afford ample opportunity of judging, give continual evidence of the success that has attended the action of the Government.

Dr. Duke, the Medical Officer of the Windward Districts, in a late report says:—

"The health of both districts continues in a satisfactory state, and the decrease of yaws patients, visible to the most casual observer, is highly gratifying to those interested in the welfare of the Island."

Dr. Elliott, the other District Officer, testifies to the disappearance of the disease in his district.

The special constables employed by the Board, unite in declaring a large portion of the Island free from the disease.

These facts, taken with the returns from the Medical Officer in charge of the hospital, may fairly be accepted as evidence of the extended good that has been accomplished, much more has to be done, and the upkeep of a permanent yaws hospital containing some 20 beds will be an essential sequence to the work, or, as in 1871, the few isolated cases that may be scattered here and there will be a fruitful reproducing source of evil. The general health of the Island has been good.

General.

The proprietors of sugar estates will long remember their difficulties in 1879, the want of steady labour, the incessant floods of rain throughout the year, low lands under water, canes rotting on the ground, the stock of fuel exhausted and no possibility of drying the newly crushed megass, the consequent delay in evaporation in the manufacture, reducing "rapid boiling," so essential to a good quality sugar, to, as was pertinently remarked by an old and experienced planter, a process of "stewing," the quality of the sugar bad, the impossibility of reaping the crop, and the consequent extensive acreage of standovers, which fell off in the yield to 33⅓, and in some instances 50 per centum, and the low price of sugar realized for the greater portion of the crop, only the cargoes of the two last vessels of the season benefitting by the improved autumn prices.

All these circumstances combined draw not an exaggerated picture of some of the trials caused by the vicissitudes of weather. The average rate realized for sugar was 11*l.* 16*s.* per 40-inch truss hogshead weighing from 18 to 19 cwt. net at the Queen's beam.

It is not out of place that I should give a few statistics on the exceptional rainfall of the year, the maximum of which reached 224·51 inches and the minimum 80·17 inches. These records being taken at points east and west of each other, "Castle Bruce" on the eastern coast and "Battalie" on the west. The average rainfall at 12 localities on the east side of the Island was

DOMINICA.

158·59 inches and at five on the west 129·41 inches, while the general average was 138 inches. What would an English farmer say to this sort of weather in harvest."

The export of cocoa amounted to 411,714 lbs., this is remarkable as compared to that of 1874, 189,000 lbs., and 1875, 200,000 lbs., but even this increase does not convey the true estimate of advantage to the grower, for a steady advance in price kept pace with the increased quantity in market, as the article gradually rose during the period above alluded to, from 25*s.* per 100 lbs. to 50*s.* and in some instances 60*s.*

It is gratifying to see a staple so adapted to the climate and soil of the Island receiving greater attention from the growers who are extending their cultivation very much. One thing, however, has been doubtless a powerful factor in this apparent improvement, large quantities of cocoa have been formerly smuggled into the neighbouring French Islands, the high price obtained in the Island has neutralized this hazardous traffic and thus augmented the recorded exports.

The heavy rains of the year destroyed the coffee flowers, the crop was almost entirely lost, the export only reaching 10,577 lbs. I am glad to find that the Liberian coffee is being extensively planted and as yet bids defiance to the coffee disease.

The cultivation of limes, so readily grown, is still attracting attention, and the export of the juice, which is a very valuable article of commerce, continues to increase.

The relative exports of 1878 and 1879 were:—

Concentrated juice - -	8,944 -	16,028
Raw - - - -	2,037 -	2,388

A cask of concentrated juice is worth two hogsheads of sugar, and once your trees are established, in four or five years, there is no outlay except in gathering the golden harvest. The value of a cask 56 gallons concentrated juice is about 20*l.*

While emigration is attracting so much attention in England, and distant fields of industry are selected as future homes for the emigrants, it is strange that the West India Islands are never thought of. The Islands are not distant nor is transit costly, the climate is healthy, land is cheap, and soil in many places, as in this Island, and rainfall of unparalleled fertility and quantity. The cost of living and clothing as compared with northern climates is inexpensive, while the people of the tropics are friendly and warm hearted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
President.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Antigua.

A.

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1871 -	15,440	16,071
1872 - -	17,310	17,162
1873 - -	16,424	17,544
1874 -	15,022	17,456
1875 - -	21,682	21,793
1876 - -	17,794	18,402
1877 - -	19,162	19,154
1878 - -	20,998	19,918
1879 - -	19,380	20,126

B.—COMPARATIVE REVENUE of 1871 to 1879.

—	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Import duty -	6,430	7,163	6,505	5,813	6,678	6,709	6,313	7,358	7,385
Tonnage and harbour -	718	680	633	644	819	689	677	721	716
Export duty -	1,226	1,146	1,257	1,225	1,478	1,289	1,213	1,376	1,354
Excise duty -	2,587	3,106	2,717	2,533	2,849	2,469	2,609	2,434	2,460
Stamp duty -	—	—	—	—	—	207	352	332	364
Licenses -	1,121	1,411	1,319	1,054	1,201	1,167	1,118	1,191	1,217
Fees, fines, and forfeitures -	682	1,082	956	1,022	1,184	1,093	1,114	1,236	1,266
Rents - -	131	146	107	94	81	84	86	48	48
House, income, assessed taxes, and streets -	694	737	684	831	688	787	912	715	—
Road tax -	1,817	1,724	1,492	1,577	1,693	1,757	1,627	1,551	1,443
Waterworks -	—	—	—	—	5,000	117	1,015	84	111
Extraordinary: Yaws tax -	—	—	—	—	—	1,395	1,429	1,524	1,556

C.—EXPENDITURE from 1871 to 1879.

—	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Civil establishments -	1,983	2,234	2,480	2,228	2,014	3,015	2,752	2,011	2,401
Judicial -	2,334	2,281	2,245	2,722	2,815	3,097	2,824	2,631	2,620
Revenue, Treasury - -	1,436	1,591	1,632	1,519	1,501	1,522	1,310	1,462	1,042
Police - -	1,289	1,307	1,333	1,247	1,356	1,369	1,326	1,385	1,419
Gaol - -	550	553	571	624	630	824	773	772	353
Education -	769	740	708	635	673	785	725	786	954
Poor house -	1,500	1,557	1,545	1,951	2,024	1,778	1,632	1,713	1,954
Works and buildings - -	946	1,721	989	1,652	343	971	469	486	739
Roads and bridges	1,735	2,227	2,388	1,574	1,089	1,181	1,206	1,248	1,650
Lights and signals - -	103	126	138	156	159	195	176	115	144
Board of Health	461	914	59	153	59	31	29	89	51
Printing -	434	384	272	225	256	315	253	244	310
Pensions -	97	119	400	373	349	326	292	272	278
Hurricane loan, &c. - -	817	817	804	804	804	959	929	952	952
Miscellaneous -	1,577	1,580	1,951	1,501	1,170	1,023	1,067	675	804
Telegraph -	—	—	—	—	—	200	400	400	400
Yaws - -	—	—	—	—	—	775	2,058	1,885	1,643

D.—IMPORTS.

—	Imported from			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1871 - -	23,357	33,136	4,888	600
1872 - -	22,257	39,976	6,651	—
1873 - -	18,663	37,307	6,582	—
1874 - -	16,926	33,211	6,577	—
1875 - -	17,245	37,217	7,848	—
1876 - -	17,240	36,175	7,459	—
1877 - -	12,433	37,395	8,066	1,028
1878 - -	22,953	31,340	9,267	2,180
1879 - -	—	—	—	—

D.—EXPORTS.

—	Exported to			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1871 - -	49,940	2,424	1,131	1,463
1872 - -	56,606	3,945	1,034	259
1873 - -	54,290	4,001	3,591	136
1874 - -	60,004	5,460	2,256	—
1875 - -	58,561	5,946	4,136	2,978
1876 - -	66,127	6,233	4,668	—
1877 - -	62,663	6,778	5,235	3,024
1878 - -	72,008	4,762	7,796	138
1879 - -	60,597	5,002	2,011	6,057

E.—PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED during the past Nine Years.

—	Sugar.		Molasses.		Rum.		Coffee.	
	Cwts.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
1871	66,219	46,356	94,015	1,921	40,615	2,545	15,734	379
1872	61,418	81,558	105,282	3,476	24,630	1,543	12,466	337
1873	69,300	51,927	95,613	2,081	16,282	1,140	13,319	403
1874	65,903	54,727	70,849	2,312	32,498	2,280	12,046	395
1875	74,446	56,105	88,140	4,797	17,041	1,443	10,990	328
1876	61,734	61,474	98,449	5,421	18,912	1,512	28,240	1,015
1877	57,751	60,729	78,679	3,029	7,660	624	35,382	1,109
	lbs.							
1878	7,437,237	59,733	117,946	3,753	10,076	704	18,216	562
1879	7,751,910	54,250	74,520	1,941	3,592	292	10,877	355

(*Continued.*)

—	Cocoa.		Farine Manioc.		Lime Juice.	
	Pounds.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
		£		£		£
1871 -	203,433	2,319	3	1	3,593	170
1872 -	204,773	2,546	246	63	5,932	691
1873 -	186,688	2,216	741	180	7,317	738
1874 -	189,782	2,164	147½	34	12,462	1,601
1875 -	200,113	2,661	870	131	8,400	1,824
1876 -	336,151	4,223	629	120	4,859	1,834
1877 -	367,146	7,430	873	123	6,201	1,594
1878 -	342,945	12,572	2,242	324	10,981	2,268
1879 -	411,704	1,489	1,206	211	18,416	3,155

(*Continued.*)

—	Tamarinds.		Logwood.		Firewood.	
	Packages.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Cords.	Value.
		£		£		£
1871 -	7	10	19	23	670	373
1872 -	131	55	20	33	853	453
1873 -	260	173	8	14	1,139	594
1874 -	251	252	105	165	1,474	743
1875 -	235	188	153	250	1,520	794
1876 -	214	148	82	80	1,442	732
1877 -	223	220	29	72	1,267	651
1878 -	238	297	18¼	33	1,434	645
1879 -	445	484	21¼	54	1,071½	554

F.—SHIPPING.

—	Entered.			Cleared.		
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1871 -	311	12,748	1,436	319	12,491	1,472
1872 -	479	9,581	1,625	492	9,151	1,643
1873 -	419	9,242	1,582	419	9,459	1,612
1874 -	361	9,549	1,407	357	9,626	1,421
1875 -	529	12,657	2,009	503	12,091	1,923
1876	435	13,250	1,957	428	13,201	1,958
1877	476	12,755	1,980	469	13,060	1,988
1878 -	471	13,278	1,879	442	12,697	1,875
1879 -	478	13,578	2,007	471	13,384	2,026

F.—TONNAGE.

	Entered.	Cleared.
	9,985	9,143
	8	8
Dutch - - -	121	199
French - - -	1,307	1,705
United States - -	2,157	2,329
Total - -	13,578	13,384

STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES, Presidency of Dominica, 31st December 1879.

Assets.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Waterworks sinking fund - -	482	10	0			
Savings Bank deposits - - -	138	16	1½			
In Marshal's hands - - -	50	0	0			
Arrears of rent - - - -	7	16	8			
Cash in Treasurer's hands - -	375	0	5			
	1,054	3	2½			
Excess of liabilities - -	8,024	11	8			
				9,078	14	10½

Liabilities.

Outstanding warrants - - -	312	8	11		
Yaws loan - - - -	1,000	0	0		
Waterworks loan - - -	5,900	0	0		
Hurricane loan - - - -	792	13	4		
Crown Agents - - - -	41	6	9		
Savings Bank - - - -	252	19	8½		
Police reward fund - - -	70	16	8		
Administrator of unrepresented estates -	93	14	3½		
Escheat Court - - - -	614	15	2½		
				9,078	14 10½

(Signed) R. H. A. DYETT,
Treasurer.

GAMBIA.

No. 9.

Administrator STREETEN to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
October 8, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Settlement in the Gambia for the year 1879, together with a report thereon from the Acting Administrator of the Gambia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. W. STREETEN,
Administrator-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Government House, Bathurst,
September 24, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency three copies of the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1879. The delay in their transmission, for which I beg to express my regret, has been unavoidably caused by the long time taken to compile the Customs Returns, owing to the very limited clerical staff of that Department.

On the Blue Book of 1879 I have the honour to offer the following remarks:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The receipts by the Treasurer during the year 1879 amounted to - - - -	28,523	7	2
deducting 39*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, arrears of 1879, and 18*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* receipts, not revenue, being over-payment recovered - - - -	57	17	5
The remainder - - - -	28,465	9	9

was the revenue of 1879 received during the year.

GAMBIA.

	£	s.	d.
At the close of 1879 there remained arrears of revenue to the amount of - - -	19	2	0
The revenue of 1878, exclusive of arrears of 1877 and of 1,200*l.* parliamentary grant for postal services, was - - - - -	24,415	0	0
That of 1879, also exclusive of arrears and of parliamentary grant, was - - -	28,465	0	0
showing an increase in favour of 1879 of -	4,050	0	0

which was owing to increased receipts under "Customs," the result of large importations in anticipation of a very large ground nut crop.

The total receipts under "Customs" for the years 1878 and 1879 were, respectively,—

	£
1878 - - -	21,968
1879 - - -	26,074

The heads of increase in 1879 were as follows:—

	£
Import duty on wine - - -	1,001
„ „ spirits - - -	255
„ „ tobacco - - -	1,981
„ „ sugar - - -	86
„ „ cola nuts - - -	322
„ „ P. wine - - -	66
„ „ guns - - -	160
„ „ bricks - - -	2
Export duty on hides - - -	135
„ „ Q. dues - - -	29
„ „ ad val. goods - -	468
„ „ warehouse rent - -	151

The cause of the large increase under wine and tobacco arises, I am informed, from the fact that the requirements of 1878 for these articles were in a measure met by the surplus stock of 1877, while at the close of 1878 a very small quantity of these articles remained on hand, necessitating a larger import in 1879 than in 1878. But the consumption of the articles in both years was about equal.

The heads of decrease were—

	£
Gunpowder - - -	63
Export duty on ground nuts - -	368
Tonnage dues - - -	17
Pilotage - - - -	106

The variation in the other heads of revenue was trifling.

The following table A. is a comparative statement of the revenue of 1878 and 1879, exclusive of arrears and of parliamentary grant for postal service :—

A.

Heads of Revenue.	1878.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£		
Customs - - - -	21,968	26,074	4,106	—
Licenses - - - -	1,003	947	—	56
Rents, exclusive of land - -	616	635	19	—
Land revenue - - -	195	174	—	21
Fines, forfeitures, &c. - -	319	322	3	—
Miscellaneous receipts - -	2	50	48	—
Reimbursements in aid - -	204	150	—	54
Postage - - - -	56	47	—	9
Government steamer - -	10	13	3	—
Auction duty - - -	42	7	—	35
Special receipts - - -	—	46	46	—
	24,415	28,465	4,225	175
	—	24,415	175	—
	—	4,050	4,050	—

The statement marked B. shows the receipts of 1879 and the revenue proper of the year.

B.

Heads of Revenue.	Revenue proper of 1879, received during the Year.	Add Arrears due at close of Year.	Total Revenu proper of 1879.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - -	26,073 18 0	—	26,073 18 0
Licenses - - -	946 15 0	—	946 15 0
Rents, exclusive of land - -	635 0 8	—	635 0 8
Fines, forfeitures, &c. - -	322 2 1	8 10 0	330 12 1
Land revenue - - -	174 11 0	7 4 0	181 15 0
Reimbursements in aid - -	149 13 11	—	149 13 11
Postage - - - -	47 8 10	—	47 8 10
Miscellaneous receipts - -	49 16 0	—	49 16 0
Auction duty - - -	6 18 7	—	6 18 7
Special receipts - - -	45 19 8	—	45 19 8
Government steamer - -	13 6 0	—	13 6 0
	28,465 9 9	15 14 0	28,481 3 9
Parliamentary grant for Postal Service - - -	—	1,200 0 0	1,200 0 0
	28,465 9 9	1,215 14 0	29,681 3 9

Expenditure.

	£
The expenditure during the year was - -	20,650
Of this amount, 1,318*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* was arrears of 1878, 400*l.* conveyance of mails, for which a parliamentary grant was made, 10*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* overpaid refunded -	1,729
leaving as the expenditure proper of the year within the year - - - - - - -	18,921
The expenditure of 1878, after similar deductions was	16,508
Showing an increase of 1879 over 1878 of - -	2,413

The Return marked C. is a comparative statement of the expenditure of 1878 and 1879, exclusive of arrears, and of conveyance of mails, the expense of which latter is defrayed out of a special grant for the purpose.

C.

Heads of Service.	1878.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
1. Civil Establishment - -	4,161	4,520	359	—
2. Judicial - - -	767	1,244	477	—
3. Ecclesiastical - - -	571	553		18
4. Medical - - -	1,194	1,032	—	162
5. Police and gaols - -	4,137	3,920	—	217
6. McCarthy Island establishment, including 60*l.* pay of militia armourer - - -	483	591	108	—
7. British Combo establishment, including 60*l.* pay of militia armourer - - -	120	47	—	73
8. Government vessels - -	678	1,105	427	—
9. Crown agent's salary and allowance - - - - -	54	55	1	—
10. Pensions - - -	782	734	—	48
11. Revenue services, exclusive of establishment - -	199	655	456	—
12. Charitable allowances -	160	163	3	—
13. Education - - -	354	336	—	18
14. Rent - - - -	34	67	33	—
15. Transport - - -	321	265	—	56
16 Works and Buildings - -	452	955	503	—
17. Special services (bridge across Oyster Creek) - -	—	1,440	1,440	—
18. Roads, streets, &c. - -	352	288	—	64
19. Miscellaneous services -	1,327	574	—	753
20. Aborigines - - -	260	239	29	-
21. Drawback - - -	100	87	—	14
	16,507	18,920	3,836	1,423
	—	16,507	1,423	—
	—	2,413	2,413	—

Explanation of causes of increase and decrease in principal items.

Increase.

1. Civil Establishment, 359*l.*	Office of first writer vacant in 1878. Provisional salary, Administrator, for three months in 1879. More arrears at close of 1878 than at end of 1879.
2. Judicial, 477*l.* - -	Apparent only. In 1878 a large portion of the salary of Chief Magistrate was charged to another head of service.
8. Government vessels, 427*l.*	No coal was purchased in 1878.
11. Revenue services, exclusive of establishment, 456*l.*	Purchase of new pilot cutter and customs boats.
16. Works and buildings, 503*l.*	More repairs to government buildings.
17. Bridge across oyster creek, 1,440.	Begins in 1879.

Decrease.

5. Police and gaols, 217*l.* -	No clothing purchased for police in 1879.
19. Miscellaneous services, 753*l.*	618*l.* charged in 1878 was special allowance to Chief Magistrate. Large supply of gunpowder in 1878.

The increase and decrease, which about balance each other in the remaining heads of service, are explained in the Blue Book and call for no special comment.

The following statement marked D., shows in detail the expenditure proper of 1879:—

D.

Heads of Service.	Expenditure proper during 1879.	Add Arrears due at close of Year.	Total Expenditure proper, 1879.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries, fixed - - -	10,484 0 1¾	95 12 5	10,579 12 6¾
„ provisional - - -	814 19 1¾	13 14 11	828 14 0¾
Allowances - - -	286 1 9	—	286 1 9
Contingencies - - -	16 9 3	2 1 4	18 10 7
Pensions - - -	733 19 4½	218 11 8	952 11 0½
Administration of justice, exclusive of establishment - -	97 18 0	—	97 18 0
Education - - -	335 10 2	—	335 10 2

Heads of Service.	Expenditure proper during 1879.	Add Arrears due at close of Year.	Total Expenditure proper, 1879.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hospital, exclusive of establishment	116 19 8	—	116 19 8
Revenue services, exclusive of establishment	655 7 4	6 16 6	662 3 10
Police and gaols	547 16 0½	32 1 4	579 17 4½
Charitable allowances	163 10 0	—	163 10 0
Aborigines	288 14 3½	145 16 8	434 10 11½
Rent	67 10 0	2 10 0	70 0 0
Transport	264 18 7	—	264 18 7
Works and buildings	955 7 8¼	—	955 7 8¼
Roads, streets, &c.	288 2 11½	—	288 2 11½
Drawback, &c.	86 13 2	10 0 0	96 13 2
Miscellaneous services	573 14 11	13 15 6	587 10 5
Government vessels	703 1 9	12 17 1	715 18 10
Special services (Oyster Creek Bridge)	1,439 18 8¼	—	1,439 18 8¼
	18,920 12 11	553 17 5	19,474 10 4
Conveyance of mails (paid by parliamentary grant for the service)	400 0 0	800 0 0	1,200 0 0
	19,320 12 11	1,353 17 5	20,674 10 4

On the 31st December 1879 the financial position of the Settlement was satisfactory as is shown by the statement of assets and liabilities.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Settlement on the Gambia on the 31st December 1879.

Assets.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance in Colonial chest	11,766 10 0	
Balance in Crown Agent's hands	5,319 10 11	
Advances due to the Settlement	26 17 5	
Arrears of revenue 1878–79	19 2 0	
Due from Imperial Government parliamentary grant for postal service	1,200 0 0	
		18,332 0 4

Liabilities.

Due on account deposits	455 4 7	
Due for postal service, pensions, &c., outstanding accounts at close of the year	1,353 17 5	
Due Imperial Government parliamentary loan in 1876–77	3,000 0 0	
		4,809 2 0
Excess of assets over liabilities		13,522 18 4

Local Revenues.

The only local revenue raised in the Gambia is that from the imposition of a tax of three per cent. on all houses the yearly rental of which is over the value of 5*l.*

The revenue derived from the tax is applied exclusively to the repair of roads, streets, bridges, &c., and its expenditure is under the control of the Administrator. A separate account is kept of the receipts and expenditure. The amount collected in 1879 was 260*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* The expenditure was 371*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* There was a balance in favour of the fund at the 1st January 1879 of 341*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* and at the close of the year of 229*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*

Public Debt.

In 1877, the Imperial Government granted 3,000*l.*, in aid of the Gambia Finances. This amount, though not classed as a Public Debt, was a liability of the Settlement and was repaid in January 1880.

Militia.

There are two small militia forces. One at British Combo and the other at McCarthy Island. There was no drill during the year 1879.

Public Works.

Some progress was made in the erection of a bridge across the Oyster Creek, which divides the Island of St. Mary, from the mainland of Combo.

An attempt was made to sink an artesian well, the experiment has not been concluded. The usual repairs to Government buildings, roads, &c. were made.

Legislation.

Six Ordinances were passed during the year.

No. 1 was a supply Ordinance.

No. 2, to authorise the raising of a loan for the construction of a bridge across Oyster Creek. (This loan was not raised.)

No. 3 re-enacted the Customs Tariff Ordinance of 1874.

No. 4 extended to the Gambia the operation of the Imperial Statute 14 & 15 Vict. Chap. 100.

No. 5 was for the compulsory registration of deeds, conveyances, &c., a measure the need of which had been much felt.

No. 6 re-enacted the Local Rate Ordinance of 1874.

Savings Banks and Friendly Societies.

The experiment of the establishment of a savings bank is worth trying, but the natives, as a rule, have a strong aversion to any-

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one's having a knowledge of their savings; and I must add that thrift is a rare virtue of the Gambians proper.

There are several friendly societies, the objects of which are similar to those of the like societies in England, pecuniary assistance during the illness of a member, and on the occasion of the death of a member, or any of his relations. The Gambian societies are hampered with a number of rules, the main object of which seems to be to compel the attendance of members at funeral processions.

Ecclesiastical.

There is one church in Bathurst belonging to the church of England, the attendance at which numbers about 200, which includes about 40 men of the police force.

At British Combo in former years a schoolmaster of the Church of England held a Sunday service at the barracks, but the practice was discontinued in 1879, the Colonial Chaplain says, for the want of a competent schoolmaster.

The Wesleyans have two chapels in Bathurst, the attendance at which is about 850; one chapel at Barra with an attendance of 150; four chapels in British Combo with a total congregation of 180, and one chapel at McCarthy Island with an attendance of 150 persons.

The Roman Catholics have one church and one chapel in Bathurst, attendance 440.

Education.

From the returns in the Blue Book I gather that the Wesleyans have in 1879 added the considerable number of 115 to the daily number of week-day pupils; the Roman Catholics lost 13, and the number at the schools of the Church of England was reduced from 130 in 1878 to 98 in 1879, the position of the schools of this denomination being, as regards number of scholars, about half as good as it was in 1875.

Each denomination of Christians receives a yearly governmental grant of 100*l.* in aid of education, and the schools of each church are under the supervision and control of its ministers.

The following analysis of the school returns might be of interest in showing the progress of education for the past five years. That some improvement in the condition of the people has resulted from the educational efforts of the last five years will not, I believe, be denied; but there is much room for improvement in the system of teaching, which is ill adapted to the requirements of the country. On this point I would call attention to and endorse Dr. Gouldsbury's remarks on the subject of education in his report on the Blue Book of 1878.

Statement showing the number of scholars of the week-day schools of the Established Church, Wesleyans, and Roman Catholics for the five years ending 1879.

——	No. of Schools.	1875.		1876.		1877.		1878.		1879.		Remarks.
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
Established Church, Bathurst.	2	79	49	37	25	85	70	58	72	47	51	Only 1 school in 1878 and 1879.
Established Church, Combo.	2	30	22	24	11	33	23	—	—	—	—	
Wesleyans, Bathurst -	1	88	91	114	88	132	88	120	98	183	128	
„ Barra -	1	25	21	16	15	17	15	15	12	17	17	
„ Combo -	2	30	27	22	16	38	32	20	18	30	21	Three schools in 1877.
„ McCarthy Island.	1	39	45	25	21	27	23	25	21	33	15	
Roman Catholic, Bathurst.	2	104	120	115	120	190	180	115	120	110	112	

Condensation of the above Statement.

——	Children of both Sexes.		
	Church of England.	Wesleyans.	Roman Catholics.
1875	180	366	224
1876	97	317	235
1877	211	372	370
1878	130	329	235
1879	98	444	222

Imports and Exports.

	£
The total value of the imports of 1879 (exclusive of specie) was - - -	161,763
The value of the imports of 1878 (also exclusive of specie) was - - -	164,941
Showing a decrease in 1879 of - -	3,178
The value of the specie imported in 1879 was	28,404
„ „ „ 1878 was	17,500
An increase of - -	£10,904

which indicates a gradual change in the system of trade from barter to that of buying for cash.

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The following is a comparative statement of the quantities or value of the principal articles imported during the years 1876, 1877, 1878, and 1879.

—		1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
Ale and porter	Gals.	4,126	7,369	7,291	8,961
Bags, empty	Val.	£551	914	2,292	1,375
Bread and biscuit	„	£647	881	919	1,419
Cotton goods	„	£17,014	20,271	35,375	42,389
Cordage	„	£658	377	946	882
Cutlasses and swords	„	£274	374	760	842
Cola nuts	Lbs.	524,259	431,322	634,749	742,955
Flour	Brls.	668	511	590	530
Guns	No.	2,829	3,719	10,371	6,917
Gunpowder	Lbs.	52,300	105,800	102,900	125,600
Hardware	Val.	£1,594	1,968	2,705	3,759
Haberdashery	„	£1,562	2,242	2,989	3,254
Lumber	„	£1,021	1,210	1,364	3,327
Rice	Tons.	1,720	656	1,216	1,898
Salt	„	270	1,726	2,015	1,189
Spirits—					
Gin	Gals.	3,166	3,195	6,479	6,609
Absinthe	„	1,199	1,229	2,012	4,107
Rum	„	37,478	30,512	65,304	48,509
Brandy	„	557	830	672	1,502
Other spirits	„	32	38	1,044	1,803
Sugar	Lbs.	51,600	71,700	120,100	159,974
Specie	Val.	Not shown	Not shown	£17,540	£28,404
Tobacco	Lbs.	359,550	305,406	364,343	381,174
Wine	Gals.	12,887	19,374	23,406	28,062

The value of cotton goods imported in 1879, was in excess of that in 1878, 7000*l.* A large quantity of these goods remained on hand at the close of the year.

The import of cola nuts was 108,000 lbs. more than in 1878. On the other hand the export of the article was 58,000 in excess of the export in 1878. The trade in cola nuts is an attractive feature in the commerce of the Gambia. The cola nut is the product of the Sierra Leone district and the trade in it, both at Sierra Leone and the Gambia, is almost entirely in the hands of women, to a large number of whom it affords the means of livelihood, and, in many instances, the acquisition of comparative wealth. The nut is largely consumed by the natives of the Gambia. It is of a bitter taste, and produces no exhilarating effect, but is said to possess the power of satisfying for a considerable time the cravings of hunger.

For this purpose, however, it is much less used than it is as a luxury.

The trade in the article is rapidly increasing.

	lbs.
In the year 1860 the import was about	150,000
In „ 1870 „ „	416,000
In „ 1879 „ „	743,000

The import of *gunpowder* was 22,700 lbs. more than in 1878. The continuous and increasing warfare among the natives is the cause of the large trade in gunpowder. Nothing would be gained by any restriction on its sale unless a like check on its supply to the natives was instituted by the French in the neighbouring Settlements.

Guns fell off to the number of 6,900 which is to be accounted for by the enormous import of 102,900 in 1878.

The import of *Rice* was 680 tons in excess of that of 1878. But for the idle habits of the people, and the native wars, the Gambia district could produce an almost unlimited supply of rice.

Rum fell off 16,700 gallons. There was a very large import of rum in 1878. A considerable quantity was bonded for export to the French Settlements. The consumption of spirits in the Gambia district is not increasing. On the contrary, with the spread of Mahommedanism there is a decrease in spirit drinking.

The import of *Sugar* was 40,000 lbs. in excess of that of 1878. An increase in the consumption of sugar follows the advance of the religion f Mahomet as certainly as the decrease in the use of strong liquor.

Tobacco increased 17,000 lbs. but the export of the article was 16,000 lbs. more than in 1878.

Wine shows an increase of 4,600 gallons. The consumption of cheap light French wine is growing larger.

Specie.—10,900*l.* more was brought into the Settlement in 1879 than in 1878. The five-franc piece of France, Italy, and Belgium forms the greater portion of imported specie; its legal value is 3*s.* 10½*d.*, but the coin passes current in commercial transactions at 4*s.* and is known among the natives as "a dollar." Of the 28,000*l.* imported in 1879, I am of opinion that fully one half was sent to Sierra Leone for the purchase of cola nuts. Of that portion of the imported specie which is paid direct to the natives for their produce, a part finds its way to the adjacent French Settlements, but the bulk of it is spent in Bathurst, and a considerable amount is hoarded by the petty traders of Bathurst, for the most part female emigrants from Sierra Leone of the Aku tribe, which is noted for its industrious and frugal habits.

Exports.

	£
The total value of the exports of 1879 was -	207,364
" " " 1878 " -	204,299
Showing an increase in favour of 1879 of -	3,065

In the return of the exports of 1879 is included 5,000*l.* the value of a large quantity of rum bonded in transit, an ephemeral trade which arose from a defect in the customs regulations of the

GAMBIA.

adjacent French territory and which will cease on the amendment of the French Customs Law. This 5,000*l.* with 1,400*l.*, the value of specie returned to Europe, explains the cause of the increase of 3,000*l.* and exhibits a decrease in the value of the exports of 3,400*l.* But the export of imported articles does not, to any extent, affect the prosperity of the Gambia, which relies almost solely for its trade on the shipment of native produce.

The following is a comparative statement of the principal articles of native produce exported in the years 1876, 1877, 1878, and 1879.

——	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
Cotton, raw and clean - Lbs.	9,417	19,474 and 11 pkgs.	6,605 and 2 bags.	6 pkgs. = 300 lbs.
Ground nuts - Tons.	9,986	15,939	23,996	22,890
Hides - - No.	18,601	17,953	15,380	30,668
Palm kernels - Tons.	51	104	87 and 91 bags.	41
Wax - - „	60	47	42	41

Cotton.—There were only a few pounds of cotton exported. The cultivation of this valuable article of commerce has, I regret to report, almost ceased.

Ground Nuts.—The export of ground nuts in 1879 fell short of that in 1878–1,106 tons.

Trade in the Gambia is almost entirely confined to ground nuts, and on the success of the crop depends the commercial prosperity of the Settlement. Nearly the whole of the nuts are exported to Marseilles and Bordeaux, where the oil, in which they are rich, is expressed. Of the 22,890 tons shipped in 1879, 20,452 were sent to France, 1,731 to Great Britain, and 707 to the West Indies and other places. The trade is mainly in the hands of French merchants. There were in 1879 five English and five French shipping houses in the Settlement, the former exported 7,294 tons and the latter 15,596 tons. Three of the English firms have since failed, and another French house has been established.

The exports of ground nuts from 1869 have been as follows :—

In 1869	were	exported	-	9,282	tons.
„ 1870	„	-	-	13,481	„
„ 1871	„	-	-	15,707	„
„ 1872	„	-	-	12,999	„
„ 1873	„	-	-	11,529	„
„ 1874	„	-	-	19,754	„
„ 1875	„	-	-	19,019	„
„ 1876	„	-	-	9,986	„
„ 1877	„		-	15,939	„
„ 1878	„	-	-	23,996	„
„ 1879	„	-	-	22,890	„

Hides.—There was a marked improvement in the trade in this article. 15,228 more hides were exported in 1879 than in 1878. It is doubtful whether this increase is owing to the slaughter of a greater number of cattle, or to the exercise of greater diligence on the part of traders in collecting hides in the year 1879.

Palm Kernels.—The export of palm kernels fell from 87 tons in 1878 to 41 tons in 1879. It is much to be regretted that no success has attended the various efforts which have from time to time been made by enterprising merchants to encourage the production of some article to supplement, and possibly displace, the ground nut, as the staple export. But the cultivation of this easily grown nut is in such accord with the indolent and careless habits of the natives of this part of West Africa that there is little hope of any change in the agricultural system of this country. The time is indeed very far distant when the Gambia will hold a place among the countries of the world which thrive from the industry of their inhabitants.

Wax.—There was little variation in the export of wax, 42 tons having been shipped in 1878 and 41 tons in 1879.

Shipping.

1879.	Vessels.	Tons.	
Entered during the year - - -	186	72,635	with cargoes.
" " - - -	50	12,884	in ballast.
Total - - -	236	85,519	
Cleared during the year - - -	193	84,722	with cargoes.
" " - - -	62	1,269	in ballast.
Total - - -	255	85,991	

The following table shows the number of vessels entered and cleared at Bathurst in the years 1876, 1877, 1878, and 1879:—

Entered.

	1876.		1877.		1578.		1879.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
With cargo - -	142	46,906	142	53,663	146	64,213	186	72,635
In ballast - -	35	7,657	34	7,785	32	12,246	50	12,884
Total - -	177	54,563	176	61,448	178	76,459	236	85,519
This includes steam vessels, principally mail steamers - -	Not separately shown in 1876.		34	35,697	33	36,912	59	62,638

Cleared.

	1876.		1877.		1878.		1879.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
With cargo - - -	115	53,817	121	58,965	131	67,127	193	84,722
In ballast - - -	71	1,208	63	1,201	46	2,296	62	1,269
Total - -	186	55,025	184	60,166	177	69,423	255	85,991
This includes steam vessels, principally mail steamers - - -	Not separately shown in 1876.		34	35,697	33	36,912	58	62,658

Gaols and Prisoners.

There is one prison in Bathurst. Its discipline is not on the separate system. It is a badly constructed and ill ventilated building, but these defects seem not to affect the good health of the prisoners. The diet is liberal, I may say attractively so.

Prisoners are for the most part employed in cleaning the streets and drains of the town, an occupation which, coupled with the sympathy between them and most of their drivers, gives ample opportunity for intercourse with friends and relations. But local circumstances prevent such isolation of prisoners as could be desired.

No moral degradation or loss of social position seems to be entailed by imprisonment. The felon who has served his time is received with open arms by his friends, and at once resumes the position he held prior to his conviction.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of convictions, summary and in the Superior Court, was,—

In 1878 - - - -	260
In 1879 - - - -	207
Showing a decrease of - -	53

General Remarks.

A creek about 200 yards wide, called Oyster Creek, divides St. Mary's Island from the mainland of Combo. A cumbrous and dilapidated ferry boat is the means of transit across the creek. Owing to the rapidity of the current, the imperfect mode of propelling the old punt, and the easy-going habits of the Gambia boatmen and labourers, the crossing of the creek is not a seductive part of the journey from Bathurst to Cape St. Mary, the loss of time, to speak of nothing else, being considerable. For many years it has been in contemplation to erect a bridge across the

Oyster Creek. In 1879 the work was begun. Labour is scarce, and this, with engineering difficulties to be overcome, renders progress in the work slow. But there is some satisfaction in knowing that the long wished for bridge is being constructed.

The want of a supply of wholesome water is much felt in Bathurst. An attempt was made during the year to sink an artesian well. The borings were carried down to a depth of 45 feet, but the continuation of the experiment, was postponed in consequence of the whole time of the Colonial Engineer being occupied with the bridge works at the Oyster Creek.

The year 1879, as regards the health of the Settlement was what is called in Gambia a "good year." The malarial fever was not of a malignant type. There was no epidemic sickness of any kind and only one death in the European community.

The pillaging "wars" of the natives seriously impeded planting operations, the evil result of which was not felt until the following year. The ground nut, the principal article of export, is planted in one year and reaped in the next. The vines were attacked by blight towards the close of the year, which further reduced the crop, and caused a deterioration in the quality of the nut.

It may not be out of place here to state that the ground nut crop of 1880 will be about 8,000 tons or 35 per cent. less than that of 1879.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. BERKELEY,
Acting Administrator.

His Excellency
The Administrator-in-Chief,
Sierra Leone.

GOLD COAST.

No. 10.

Governor USSHER, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
August 16, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Gold Coast Settlement for the year 1879, together with the report thereon of the late Acting Colonial Secretary, Captain Wilton, Gold Coast Constabulary.

2. Did my time permit of it, I should feel disposed myself to make a fuller report upon matters connected with the Colony; but as my time is fully occupied now with matters of considerable moment, and as my stay in Lagos inconvenienced me considerably in point of local work here, I must crave your Lordship's permission to send the report on as I have received it.

Gold Coast.

3. I may simply remark that the last six months of 1879, as will have been seen by a despatch accompanying this one, showed signs of improvement in the Revenue, which have been more than verified by the large additions of the first seven months of 1880. I am not aware of any very special improvement in trade here ; in fact the oil season has barely begun. But the greater strictness of supervision in the collection of the revenue, the severity of the punishment meted out to smugglers, and the recent addition to the territory of Afflowhoo, by which the revenues of these places have doubled and trebled themselves, are the principal causes for the improvement in revenue. A very large and important trade has also sprung up on the Volta River. The Axim mines have not at present produced results worthy of record, and the greater part of the imports have been landed free, being machinery and plant for the mines.

4. The Colony is now no longer in debt. On the contrary, it paid off last year the balance of the Imperial grant; and the present clear assets exceed 75,000*l.*, a large portion of which is invested for the benefit of the Settlement.

5. Energetic steps are invariably taken to abolish human sacrifice and slavery, and every effort has been made, while sternly repressing and punishing the tendency to official bribery and corruption, too common amongst the subordinate officials, to encourage deserving African officers by their increased employment in posts of trust and importance.

6. The natural results of sudden impulses to trade and enterprise, such as those lately given to the Volta and Tarquah districts, are being provided for by the appointment of Civil Commissioners to the judicial and administrative charge of those districts with extended powers.

7. The Houssa Constabulary continues to justify its reputation. The men are tractable and steady, desertions are moderate, and crime small. I notice a great deal of energy and zeal amongst many of the officers.

8. The sanitary condition of the Colony in 1879 was good. The old hut at Accra used as a hospital is being replaced by a new and suitable building. The recent arrangements providing for the presence of medical officers at out-stations cannot fail to be beneficial.

9. Some public works of importance were undertaken, and the purchase of Gothic House for 3,000*l.* at Cape Coast was a judicious investment. The forts and public buildings are generally in fair order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. T. Ussher,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

GOLD COAST.

Colonial Secretariat, Christiansborg,
June 20, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward your Excellency the Blue Book of the Settlement on the Gold Coast for the year 1879, and to submit the following remarks thereon :—

The total revenue from all sources was 90,432*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, showing a decrease of 14,659*l.* 10*s.* 7½*d.* from the large revenue of the previous year. This decrease can partially be accounted for by the lowness of the prices current in the Colony for oil and other produce during the year, and the demand for palm oil not being so great as in the previous year in the European markets.

Of the gross amounts the Customs contributed 80,120*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, the other principal heads being :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	2,665	1	7
Postages	371	14	0
Profit on sale of gold dust	181	11	4
Sale of Government property	183	0	9
Licenses	3,343	9	0
Light dues	390	12	0
Interest on funds invested	494	5	11

The expenditure amounted to 98,064*l.* 6*s.*, showing an excess of expenditure of 7,632*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* over the revenue. Included in this expenditure, however, are the amounts refunded to the Imperial Government, viz. :—20,000*l.* in repayment of balance of Parliamentary grant of 1875, and 17,848*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* for supplies by the War Office Authorities to the Colony during the Ashantee War.

There are no local revenues raised and appropriated under the authority of any municipal body.

The funds of the Colony held, on investment, and in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, amounted on 31st December 1879 to 67,329*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

The Colony does not incur any expenditure on account of its military defence beyond an allowance to the officers and men in lieu of exemption from import duties.

There is no public debt on the Gold Coast.

There is no Militia, the establishment of the Constabulary, however, is fixed at an inspector-general, two inspectors, an adjutant and musketry instructor, an artillery inspector, 10 assistant inspectors, two native officers, one pay and quarter-master, one assistant to ditto, eight sergeant-majors, 40 sergeants, 40 corporals, one drum-major, 800 privates, 12 boys, one armourer sergeant, one orderly room clerk, three clerks and interpreters, and three priests.

The forts and redoubts garrisoned by the Constabulary are :— Axim Fort, Dixcove Fort, Secondee Fort, Elmina Castle, Anamaboe Fort, Accra Fort, and Quittah Fort, together with the redoubts at Mansue and Prahsue. In addition to the above, small parties are stationed on the road to Prahsue for the protection of traders.

GOLD COAST.

The expenditure on public works, roads, and buildings amounted to 3,160*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, the principal works being in part completion of Aburi House, road making, general repairs to forts, and buildings, and enclosures.

Seven Ordinances were passed during the year, viz.:—

No. 1. An Ordinance to allow and confirm certain expenditure for the service of the Settlement on the Gold Coast, for the year 1878.

No. 2. An Ordinance to allow and confirm certain expenditure for the Service of the Settlement of Lagos for the year 1878.

No. 3. An Ordinance relating the constabulary of the Gold Coast Colony.

No. 4. An Ordinance relating to the Wills of persons serving in the constabulary, and to the distribution on their decease of their personal property, and also in cases of desertion.

No. 5. An Ordinance to apply a sum of money out of the Revenue of the Settlement on the Gold Coast, required for defraying the expenses of the Civil Government of the Settlement for the year 1880.

No. 6. An Ordinance to apply a sum of money out of the Revenue of the Settlement of Lagos, required for defraying the expenses of the Civil Government of that Settlement, for the year 1880.

No. 7. An Ordinance to regulate and amend the scale of fees payable to Government Medical Officers for service rendered at inquests on persons dying in gaol.

In the civil establishment the changes in appointments of a responsible nature were as follows:—His Excellency Governor Ussher vice Sir Sanford Freeling resigned; C. A. Moloney to be Colonial Secretary vice M. J. Brown retired; G. T. Carter to be Collector and Treasurer vice T. R. Griffith; P. A. Smith to be Chief Justice vice Sir David P. Chalmers; John Smith to be District Commissioner, Saltpond, vice Major J. T. Brownell, deceased. John Pagan to be Surveyor General; L. de Sanctis, C. F. Castor, and James Waghorn to be Assistant Colonial Surgeons; Captain J. R. H. Wilton, W. A. Cuscaden, A. W. W. Forbes, R. H. Campbell, and S. M. H. LeMarchant to be Assistant Inspectors of the Gold Coast Constabulary.

Three deaths occurred among the officials, viz.: P. A. Smith at Accra, Messrs Brownell and Dr. de Sanctis on board ship on way home to England.

The population can only be roughly estimated at about 500,000, anything in the nature of a census being an impossibility.

The Wesleyan, Basel, and North German Missions are the principal religious establishments in the Settlement. There is however an established church at Cape Coast.

The Basel and North German Missions exercise a fair amount of influence in the way of civilizing and christianizing the natives, their process of instructing the people in trades concurrently with religious instruction being calculated to civilize and render the lower classes useful members of the community.

There is one school in connexion with the Church of England in Cape Coast, and the Wesleyans, Basel, and North German Missions have schools at their different stations in the Settlement. A Government school was also opened at Accra in May 1879. From returns received the number of scholars of both sexes are as follows:—

Church of England - - -	146
Wesleyan Mission Society - -	2,600
Basel „ „ - -	984
North German Mission Society - -	145
Government School, Accra - -	136

The Wesleyan and Basel Missions receive a grant of 100*l.* per annum each from the Government.

The value of imports and exports for the year have been respectively 323,039*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* and 428,810*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* Large importations of dry goods come from the United Kingdom. Spirits and tobacco in large quantities from the Continent and America. The principal exports are gold dust, palm oil, palm kernels, and gum copal.

The number of sailing vessels entered were 89 with an aggregate tonnage of 24,057 tons. The number of steam vessels entered was 69 with an aggregate tonnage of 73,812 tons, and the same numbers cleared. These steam vessels consist almost entirely of the mail packets.

The gold fields of the district of Tarquah, about 50 miles from Axim, are in progress, several companies having been established and commenced operations. Should they meet with success a rush of Europeans is to be expected.

Fishing is carried on to a great extent along the seaboard, the fish being cured, and large quantities taken into the interior.

The number of prisoners committed in 1879 were 1,224, the principal offences being assaults, larcenies, and breaches of laws relating to revenue and the social economy of the Colony.

The Colonial hospital dispenses medicines free to the inhabitants, and is supported entirely by the Government. The principal diseases are fever, rheumatism, ulcers, and guinea worm.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. R. H. WILTON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

To His Excellency H. T. USSHER, C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Gold Coast Colony.

LAGOS.

No. 11.

Governor Ussher, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Government House,
Christiansborg Castle,
Accra, October 25, 1880.

Lieutenant-Governor Griffith, C.M.G., to Governor Ussher, C.M.G.

Government House, Lagos,
October 11, 1880.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith in triplicate the Blue Book of the Settlement of Lagos for the year 1879, being the first time it has been printed, and therefore in a form in which I hope it will be more readable and useful than when prepared as hitherto in manuscript, although I fear that in some few, but I trust immaterial instances, it may be found not free from defects often inseparable from first attempts. I had some trouble and to practise much patience to get it into type. Want of familiarity with printing a Blue Book has kept back the compositors, and caused the volume to be transmitted later than I hoped to have sent it on. This must be my apology for delay, but the ice having been broken I trust that next year's edition will be ready much earlier.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

2. These remain at the rates which were in force in 1878, and were extremely light. They suffice, however, to supply the revenue which has been required for the public service hitherto, and a respectable balance has accumulated which, however, will be largely drawn upon to meet the cost of the public buildings which are urgently required, and are in progress; and in order to remove from Lagos the reproach of being a most unhealthy settlement drainage and filling up of pestilential swamps will have to be attended to far beyond what is authorised by the present allotment of funds for such work. Increased taxation would be required for these and other purposes, but it could be imposed without causing the smallest appreciable inconvenience to the public, in whose interests the money so raised would be expended, and whose property and avocations would be immensely benefited by the improved status of the Settlement on the score of health and material advancement. My residence here extends only to nine months of this year, and my experience is therefore too limited to have much weight upon the subject, but so far as it goes, I hold the opinion that Lagos is not only not so unhealthy as it is credited with being, but that by strict and unremitting attention to sanitary improvements the mortality of Europeans from climatic causes may be greatly diminished. However, with

the resources at my disposal, I am doing all in my power in this direction, and I am glad to report that so far as three fourths of this year (1880) can be taken into account, Lagos has been singularly healthy.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The receipts for 1879 were 54,939*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, and the expenditure was 45,934*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, exhibiting a surplus of 9,004*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* of revenue over expenditure.

4. The estimated revenue for 1879 was 46,577*l.* and the expenditure 42,542*l.*, which would leave a surplus of 4,035*l.* This, however, amounted to 9,005*l.*, or, in round numbers, in excess 5,000*l.*

5. The available assets of the Settlement on 31st December 1878 were :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Investments in the English Funds through the Crown Agents (Three per Cent. Consols, 20,984*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* purchased for)-	20,000	0	0
Current balance in their hands - -	3,841	18	3
Total assets in England - - -	23,841	18	3
Working balance in Lagos - -	2,898	7	1
Total available assets of the Settlement at 31st December 1878 - - -	26,740	5	4

6. The year 1879 was therefore begun with 26,740*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* The reveuue for the same period was 54,939*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, affording a total of funds of 81,679*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* The expenditure amounted to 45,934*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, leaving a credit balance on 31st December, 1879 of 35,744*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* The corresponding balance in 1878 was 26,740*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* showing a gain of assets in 1879 of 9,004*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* as exhibited in paragraph 3.

7. The balance of assets in hand in 1879 was thus held :—	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Invesments in the English Funds by the Crown Agents (20,984*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* purchased for) - - - -				20,000	0	0
In their hands in account current - - -	5,086	0	3			
Remittance to them in transit 2,000*l.*, *less* specie shipped by them and en route to the Settlement, 500*l.* - -	1,500	0	0			
Treasurer's working balance -	8,674	6	10			
Advances due to the Settlement - - -	484	12	0	15,744	19	1
Total as shown in paragraph 6 - - -				35,744	19	1

LAGOS.

8. It will be seen by paragraphs 4 and 3 the estimated revenue of 1879 was 46,577*l.*, while that actually received was 54,939*l.*, showing an excess of actual over estimated revenue of 8,362*l.*

Of this amount—

	£
The Customs produced - - -	6,860
Fees of office - - - -	251
Fees and fines - - - -	158
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	584
Reimbursement in aid - - -	462
Thus accounting for the increase - -	8,315

9. The estimated expenditure of 1879 was 42,542*l.*, the actual expenditure was 45,935*l.* or, in excess of the estimate by 3,393*l.*, which is more than accounted for by the outlay in 1879 for the Colonial steamer "Gertrude" of the sum of 4,792*l.*, other heads of expenditure exhibiting decreases accounting for the difference of 1,399*l.*

10. The improvement in the Customs of 6,860*l.* over the estimates of income from this source is very satisfactory in view of the interruption to business caused by the roads in the interior being closed in consequence of the continuance of hostilities against Ibadan by the Egbas and their allies the Jebus and Ilorins. Part of the improvement referred to is due to the circumstance that shipments intended to be landed at Cootenoo had to be brought to Lagos, the Krooboys having refused to work their boats, in consequence of the sharks devouring some of their comrades whose boat was upset.

11. It is satisfactory to note, that notwithstanding the serious drawback of the war in the interior, the commerce of the Settlement has steadily advanced, as evidenced by the customs receipts. The cessation of the war would affect the general interests still more favourably.

12. Some of the improvement referred to is also due to the means of safe communication between the countries bordering on the Eastern and Western Rivers and Lagos, which has been brought about by the frequent patrol of these great waterways by the Government steamer "Gertrude." Outrages and robberies which formerly were of frequent occurrence on them are now comparatively rare, and traders travel from Aboto, 120 miles away to the east, and to Whemi, about 80 miles to the west of Lagos, with their families and large quantities of merchandise in safety. It may therefore be said with accuracy that the cost of this Colonial gunboat, 6,715*l.*, was money judiciously expended.

13. The following figures exhibit the revenue and expenditure of Lagos for the last five years :—

Years.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1875 - - - -	43,366 13 0	44,379 12 0
1876 - - - -	46,392 1 2	45,170 8 9
1877 - - - -	59,389 16 0	42,305 7 5
1878 - - - -	49,359 5 4	49,735 10 4
1879 - - - -	54,939 12 7	45,934 18 10
Totals - - -	253,447 8 1	227,525 17 4
Averages - - -	50,689 9 7	45,505 3 6

The average annual gain of revenue over expenditure during the last five years was therefore 5,000*l.* per annum, whilst the expenditure in 1875 and 1876 contained the respective sums of 10,000*l.* and 15,000*l.*, making a total of 25,000*l.* of debt paid off, thus emancipating the Settlement from such liability.

14. The expenditure also includes, dating from 1st January 1877, a contribution from this Settlement of 2,905*l.* towards the salaries of the Governor, Queen's Advocate, Chief Justice, Inspector General of Police, and Auditor of the Gold Coast Colony.

Public Debt.

15. As stated in paragraphs 5 and 14, the Settlement so far from being in debt, has 20,000*l.* invested in consols besides a respectable working capital.

Military Expenditure.

16. Her Majesty's regular troops were withdrawn from the Settlement in 1870, and Houssa constabulary and civil police were substituted, and represent the defensive force of the Settlement. The two bodies are thus composed:—

Houssa Constabulary.

3 assistant inspectors.
1 superintendent.
1 native officer.
2 sergeants-major.
9 sergeants.
10 corporals, and
143 privates.

Total - 165

exclusive of inspectors and superintendent.

Drummers.

	1 drum-major.
	2 corporals, and
	10 privates.
Total -	13

Gunners.

	1 sergeant-major.
	1 sergeant.
	2 corporals, and
	16 privates.
Total -	20
	1 armourer
	1 priest.
	2 schoolmasters.
Total -	4

Civil Police.

	1 sub-intendant.
	1 sergeant-major.
	1 charge clerk.
	3 sergeants.
	6 corporals, and
	100 constables.
Total -	112

17. The force is armed with the breech-loading Snider rifle three 7-pounder bronze M.L.R. guns, and rocket troughs. The expenditure on the combined force for the year was 8,098*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*

Public Works.

18. None of any importance were begun; the expenditure was chiefly for repairs.

Legislation.

19. Five Ordinances were passed at Accra in 1879 relating to Lagos, namely:—

No. 2.—"To allow and confirm certain expenditure for the "service of the Settlement for 1878."

No. 3.—"The Gold Coast Constabulary Ordinance, 1879."

No. 4.—"The Constables, Wills and Property Distribution "Ordinance 1879."

No. 6.—Applying "a sum of money out of the revenue of "the Settlement for defraying the expenses of the Civil Govern- "ment of Lagos for the year 1880."

No. 7.—Regulating and amending "the scale of fees payable to "Government Medical Officers for services rendered at inquests "on persons dying in gaol."

20. Two Proclamations were issued relating to Lagos. The first, dated 31st January 1879, declared that the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance should be deemed to apply to Lagos.

The second, dated 1st July, referred to the assumption of the Government of the Gold Coast by his Excellency Mr. Ussher, C.M.G.

Civil Establishment.

21. Mr. Ussher having been appointed to the Government-in-Chief entered upon office on 1st July.

Captain Moloney continued during the year as Acting Administrator of the Settlement.

Mr. Lees, the Lieutenant-Governor, having gone on leave on the arrival of the Governor-in-Chief, Captain Hay, the Assistant Colonial Secretary, remained at head-quarters, his duties here being performed by Mr. Turton; Mr. L. P. Coussey, the Chief Clerk and Warehouse-keeper of the Customs, died on 20th January, but his place was not filled during 1879. Mr. Adamson was appointed Second Engineer of Government Vessels.

Mr. Marshall, Puisne Judge of the Settlement, who returned from leave on 7th April, left on the 21st May for Accra, to assume the duties of acting Chief Justice. Mr. Turton performing his duties here, and Mr. Porter acting as Crown Prosecutor in Mr. Turton's place.

Mr. Smith, the District Commissioner at Leckie, was withdrawn for service at the Gold Coast, and his place filled by Mr. Elliott. Several changes were also made in subordinate offices.

Pensions.

22. Seven persons are on the pension list, receiving on the whole 1,507*l.* 10*s.* per annum, less 70*l.* a year to Mr. Tickel, late Commissioner of the Western District, whose pension of that amount remains in abeyance during his occupancy of the post of Political Agent of this Government.

Population.

23. A census was taken in 1871 which placed the population of the Settlement at 60,221, which was distributed thus:—

LAGOS.

Localities.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Lagos and its vicinity - -	16,970	19,035	36,005
Northern District - -	5,313	7,088	12,401
Eastern District - -	1,852	2,162	4,014
Western District - -	3,728	4,073	7,801
Totals - - -	27,863	32,358	= 60,221

of this number 94 were Europeans, five of them being females. Even at the present time the number of Europeans is probably under 100.

24. The births, marriages, and deaths of the last five years appear as follows:—

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1875 - - - -	170	54	521
1876 - - - -	198	65	630
1877 - - - -	201	61	656
1878 - - - -	197	69	842
1872 - - - -	194	81	840
Five Years - -	960	330	3,489
Average - -	192	66	698

deducting births 192, from deaths the population of the Island of Lagos would appear to be decreasing by 506 annually. On questioning the Registrar as to this he states that the registration of births is not compulsory, and, such as it is, is confined to Lagos alone. If the births were all registered he thinks the figures would exhibit a different result but by no means such as would show an increase of population; somewhat more control can be exercised in ascertaining deaths, but not unfrequently it happens that natives who die on the Island of Lagos are taken across to the mainland to be buried according to their "customs," which the sanitary arrangements of the Island do not permit to be exercised in it. Sometimes, however, the deaths of the persons so removed are first registered by their friends. Taking the deaths in the Island of Lagos for five years, that is 1875 to 1879, as shown already at 3,489 and the births at 960, it would appear that the population of the Island has diminished in that space by the deaths of 2,529 persons, and even throwing off 529 for unregistered births there would still remain a net loss of 2,000 of population.

25. The census taken in 1871 is not accepted as accurate, as it is generally asserted that the arrangements made for the purpose were carried out perfunctorily. The natives too, not having been instructed upon the question, were suspicious of it, and did all they could to obstruct the work. The census to be taken in 1881

will, I trust, be carried out satisfactorily, and so afford a reliable foundation upon which not only to base calculations as to the gain or loss of population in the future but also for other useful purposes.

26. The mortality of males is considerably in excess of that of females, being about 16 per cent. greater, whilst the male population of Lagos and its vicinity was given by the census of 1871 as 16,970, and the female population as 19,035. Even allowing for the plurality of wives which exists in this Island, this decrease in male population, by death is calculated to produce evils of various kinds.

27. The following statement exhibits the death rate among Europeans from the date that the registration of deaths became really operative:—

Months.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	Total.
January -	—	2	1	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	8
February -	—	3	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	10
March -	—	—	—	—	—	—	*1	—	—	1	—	—	2
April -	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	*1	1	—	1	1	7
May - -	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	*1	4	—	12
June -	2	1	—	—	—	—	*2	1	3	1	6	—	16
July - -	—	1	—	—	—	1	*6	2	2	2	4	4	22
August -	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	5	2	3	1	16
September	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	5
October -	—	—	—	3	1	2	—	—	—	*3	*1	1	11
November-	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	*2	—	4	1	*1	12
December-	—	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	9
Totals -	4	10	2	9	9	11	15	8	13	17	22	10	130
						45				85			

Each * denotes the death of one female, the totals being - - - 3 2 2 2 1 = 10

And the total male deaths - - - - - - - - 120

28. It appears from the foregoing figures that the most fatal months are February, just as the Harmattan season begins to close up; April, May, and June, when "the former rains" descend; July and August, the period when malaria is rife; October and November, the period of "the latter rains." But the four central months, May, June, July, and August, appear to be the most unhealthy of all.

29. The following statement which I have personally compiled, together with others, from the Registrar's annual returns, describes from his entries the causes of death among Europeans in the Island of Lagos during the last 12 years, 1868 to 1879:

	No.
Still born - - - - - -	2
Sunstroke - - - - - -	2
Congestion of the brain - - - -	3
Acute inflammation of the brain - - -	1
Sanguineous apoplexy - - - -	1
Rupture of a blood vessel - - - -	1

	No.
Disease of the heart	3
Inflammation of the lungs	5
Acute bronchitis	1
Asthma	1
Inflammation of the stomach, &c.	1
Suppression of urine	1
Diarrhœa	7
Dysentery	14
Jaundice and fever	1
Bilious fever	1
Bilious remittent fever	1
Remittent fever	2
Fever (African?)	63
Convulsions	2
Sore leg and sores	2
Dropsy	1
Debility	2
Syncope	1
Paralysis	1
Delirium tremens	1
Drowned, and one arising from immersion in water	8
Natural causes	1
Total in 12 years	130

30. It will be seen from this statement that dysentery and fever, the chief diseases of hot climates, have been productive of the greatest mortality among Europeans in Lagos.

31. In this climate, caution and prudence are necessary for the preservation of health, and temperance in all things is well worthy of observance, combined with generous living, constant occupation, and abstinence from the too much indulged in habit of counting every day until leave-time arrives. In Lagos many Europeans are to be met with who have passed 15 to 20 years in the Settlement, and have kept their health fairly. With all that is said as to the insalubrity of the place, I believe it is the healthiest, as it is beyond doubt the finest looking, and the most flourishing Settlement on the coast; and with strict attention to sanitary precautions, I hope that it will enjoy a better reputation in this respect in the future than it has hitherto.

Ecclesiastical Return.

32. There are four religious denominations in the Settlement, statistics as to which are afforded in the following table:—

Religious Denominations.	No. of Clergy.	Churches and other Buildings for Public Worship.	Number of Persons for whom there is accommodation.	Persons generally attending.
Church of England -	11	13	4,270	2,500
Wesleyan - -	7	7	1,750	920
Roman Catholic - -	5	2	1,090	500
Baptists - - -	2	1	350	150
Total - -	25	23	7,460	4,070

33. The foregoing statistics are confined to the Settlement. The religious bodies are missionary, and have numerous ramifications in the neighbouring countries surrounding the Settlement, with the exception of the Jebu country, the king of which will not admit any missionary into his territory.

Education.

34. This is carried on by the various religious denominations, aided by an annual grant of 200*l.* each from the Government to the Church Missionary, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic Societies, and these deserve the greatest credit for the able services they have done, and are doing, in promoting the education of the native children ; nor are their exertions confined to the Settlement, for in many of the surrounding countries where places for Divine worship have been planted schools have sprung up with them. I hope that in the near future the Government may see its way by payment for results to extend the grant for educational purposes, and that its bounty may not only be bestowed upon the Settlement, but may also be extended to the assistance of schools in the chief towns of our neighbours, where they may be unable to support them except by external aid.

35. The education returns for the year from the various missionary societies give the following particulars:—

Religious Denominations.	Year.	No. of Schools.	No. of Instructors.	No. of Children on Books.	Expenditure.
					£ s. d.
Church of England -	1879	16	37	1,287	1,474 10 8
Wesleyan - -	1879	9	20	641	731 9 6
Roman Catholic -	1879	2	9	337	367 16 4
Baptist - -	1879	1	1	43	24 0 0
Total -		28	67	2,308	2,597 16 6

The education of the sexes appears to be as follows:—

Religious Denominations.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England -	725	562	1,287
Wesleyan - -	383	258	641
Roman Catholic - -	190	147	337
Baptist - - -	23	20	43
Total - -	1,321	987	2,308

36. It is worth noticing that the moment the little African goes to school, more clothing is required than the scanty cloth which scarcely conceals what it is worn to cover. In fact the school children are dressed properly, and to the eye of a European look infinitely better than the more than half naked, and in some instances quite naked child one sees constantly in the streets. On the score of decency alone education deserves every support in Lagos.

Imports and Exports.

37. These appear for the five years, 1875 to 1879, as shown in the following table:—

Years.	Imports.			Exports.			Excess of Exports over Imports.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1875 - -	459,736	19	0	517,535	17	6	57,798	18	6
1876 - -	476,812	12	8	619,260	0	2	142,447	7	6
1877 - -	614,359	4	1	734,707	11	6½	120,348	7	5½
1878 - -	485,502	8	7	577,336	2	1½	91,833	13	6½
1879 - -	527,871	17	1	654,379	11	10	126,507	14	9
Totals -	2,564,285	1	5	3,103,219	3	2	538,936	1	9
Averages -	512,857	0	0	620,644	0	0	107,787	0	0

38. From a mercantile point of view these figures appear to indicate a very satisfactory state of affairs, showing a considerable improvement both in imports and exports in 1879 over 1878, and a balance of trade of 126,507*l.* in favour of Lagos in the latest year, whilst in the five years contrasted the total balance in favour of the Settlement shows over half a million of pounds sterling. The major portion of this business is in the hands of wealthy and enterprising German and French houses, and gives employment to a considerable amount of foreign tonnage.

39. Considerable as is the amount of business shown by the foregoing figures, its volume would be largely increased if the war, which for some years has dragged a weary length between the Jebus, Egbas, and Ilorins, on the one side, against the Ibadans on

the other, was at an end. Native opinion inclines to the belief that the contending parties are getting tired of it, and it is to be hoped that events may justify that belief. Meanwhile, although there is a steady demand for guns and powder on the part of the allies, the roads by which the Ibadans could send their produce to Lagos are closed, and thus the Settlement is deprived of a considerable branch of business.

40. Of the total imports into the Settlement in 1879 there were received from—

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain - -	271,780	9	0
Germany - - -	114,619	8	11
France - - -	49,642	2	6
Brazil - - -	28,745	11	8
Belgium - - -	9,832	13	9
United States of America -	2,779	2	0
Zanzibar - - -	26,486	9	8
	503,885	17	6

leaving 23,985*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* as representing imports from places in the neighbourhood of the Settlement.

41. The following statement shows in groups the chief articles of import and their declared values :—

		Value.		
		£	s.	d.
Absinthe - -	946 gals.	376	13	4
Alcohol - -	1,207 „	86	5	0
Ale and porter -	4,330½ doz.	1,418	14	1
Bitters - -	1,298½ gals.	300	11	0
Brandy - -	972½ „	670	12	6
Cordials - -	1,635 „	394	16	9
Geneva and old tom	433,976 „	63,540	0	5
Rum -	1,259,640 „	73,466	14	9
Wine - -	17,908 „	3,418	0	8
		143,672	8	6

	Value.			
	£	s.	d.	
Cigars - -	969	1	11	
Tobacco - -	30,140	17	0	
				31,109 18 11
Ammunition -	472	14	10	
Guns - -	5,161	9	6	
Gunpowder -	1,756	9	6	
Matchets - -	1,216	8	4	
Shot - -	1,754	11	5	
				10,361 13 7

	Value. £ s. d.	Value. £ s. d.
Apparel - -	2,797 12 2	
Boots and Shoes -	671 15 0	
Hats and Caps -	1,087 5 11	
Umbrellas - -	524 7 0	
		5,081 0 1
Cotton goods -	170,578 6 9	
Haberdashery -	8,171 19 9	
Linen goods -	688 9 7	
Silk - -	6,375 7 1	
Woollen goods -	3,114 9 6	
		188,928 12 8
Beads - -	- -	8,434 16 10
Coals - -	- -	1,369 16 4
Cutlery - -	- -	1,214 14 2
Earthenware -	- -	6,313 11 7
Hardware - -	- -	5,881 7 5
Iron, galvanized -	- -	2,269 19 8
Lumber - -	- -	2,952 4 2
Matches - -	- -	1,132 3 0
Twine - -	- -	3,439 13 6
Iron Hoops -	1,501 13 4	
Shooks - -	7,197 2 1	
		8,698 15 5
Provisions :—		
Beef - -	987 9 0	
Bread -	814 6 0	
Butter - -	469 8 7	
Fish, salted -	702 11 0	
Flour - -	1,191 10 11	
Oilmen's stores -	9,607 13 8	
Rice - -	3,016 16 11	
Salt - -	2,840 19 1	
Sugar, refined - £ 1,016 15 0		
Unrefined 404 2 11	1,420 17 11	
		21,051 13 1
Medicines - -	- -	842 7 0
Kolah nuts - -	1,353 1 6	
Potash - -	3,566 0 2	
		4,919 1 8
Cowries - -	35,002 3 8	
Specie - -	21,741 4 1	
		56,743 17 9

42. Of the spirituous liquor and tobacco imported, large quantities were afterwards exported to Porto Novo, as will be shown subsequently.

	£	s.	d.
43. The gross duty on the imports was -	69,560	17	8
Less difference of duty on articles in transit - - - -	22,285	9	8
	47,275	8	0
But the amount of duty received was	46,860	6	6
Showing a deficiency of - -	415	1	6

which the treasurer explains to have arisen from a clerical error in stating the duty on articles in transit which should have been put at 22,700*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* instead of 22,285*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

44. The exports represent value for 530,789*l.* 14*s.* 1½*d.* and the chief articles sent away were:—

	£	s.	d.
Cotton goods - -	23,213	17	5
Cowries - - -	10,055	9	10
Gin - - - -	24,053	10	2
Kolah nuts - - -	1,076	5	8
Rum - - -	41,046	11	11
Spirits - - -	1,903	0	0
Tobacco - - -	13,410	8	8
Wine - - -	1,845	2	10½

45. The exports of African produce was represented by palm kernels to—

		Value.		
		£	s.	d.
Great Britain -	11,666 tons	141,314	19	0
France - -	9,563 „	98,250	15	0
Germany - -	6,611 „	79,879	0	0
	27,840 „	319,444	14	0

Palm Oil.

		£	s.	d.
Great Britain -	960,992 gals.	79,453	12	0
France - -	965,683 „	76,881	7	4
Germany - -	362,140 „	35,907	6	0
Brazils - -	180,603 „	16,552	16	2
	2,469,418 „	208,795	1	6
Total palm kernels -	27,840 tons	319,445	0	0
Total palm oil -	2,469,418 gals.	208,795	0	0
Total value of this produce exported -		528,240	0	0

	Value. £	s.	d.
Leaving to be represented by other articles - - - -	2,549	0	0
	530,789	0	0
And exported merchandize received from other countries - -	123,590	0	0
Value of the general exports from Lagos in 1879 showing the total at -	654,379	0	0

Shipping.

46. In 1879, 138 sailing vessels, measuring 34,559 tons, and manned by 1,207 men, were entered at Lagos. In 1878 the figures were 150 vessels, 37,631 tons, and 1,437 men.

47. The nationality, tonnage, and crews of the vessels in 1879 were:—

——	No. of Crew.	Tons.	Men.
British - - - -	9	2,008	70
French - - - -	37	10,853	368
German - - -	44	10,013	361
Dutch - - - -	1	322	11
Belgian - - - -	2	510	15
Brazilian - - -	11	2,446	101
S. and W. African Ports -	34	8,413	281
	138	34,559	1,207

Of the foregoing, 126 vessels, of 31,761 tons, brought cargoes, whilst 12, of 2,798 tons, were in ballast.

Manufactures.

48. The following articles are made:—Bricks of fair quality, Brick earth being plentiful on the mainland; cloths, dyes, earthenware of a rude sort; fancy work in leather, straw, and carving; mats, lime, and salt to a moderate extent.

Gaols and Prisons.

49. The total number of persons committed in 1879 was 431; of these 401 were males and 30 females. The number committed in 1878 was 330.

50. The daily average number in prison was 105; the daily average on the sick list, 3; the total deaths during the year, 11. Coroners' inquests took place in each case, the verdicts attributing death to natural causes.

51. The total cost of the Gaol Department in 1879 was 1,919*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*

52. The erection of a new prison has been sanctioned, and will be begun early next year. It is greatly required.

Criminal Statistics.

53. The following is a comparative table of the persons apprehended and summoned during the past five years.

1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
1,099	971	1,060	949	995

54. In 1879, 128 persons were discharged for want of prosecution, or of evidence; 47 were cases dismissed; 692 were summarily convicted, and 128 were sent to the superior courts for trial.

55. Of these, in 98 cases judgment was given for the Crown; for the prisoners in 24; and 6 cases fell through.

Hospitals, &c.

56. There are two hospitals in Lagos, one for the treatment of ordinary diseases, the other for contagious or infectious diseases. Both are admirably kept, well adapted for the purposes referred to, and are conveniently situated.

57. On 1st January 1879 there were 18 patients in the first hospital, one being a woman; 442 were admitted during the year, 32 of them being females; the average daily number in hospital was 26, of whom 2 were females; 369 were cured; 1 was delivered, and one did not improve; 60 died; 48 were discharged, and 28 remained in hospital at 31st December 1879.

58. The number of out-patients treated in the Colonial Hospital during the year 1879 was 32,005, 26,164 persons were vaccinated. Of these, 1,140 did not benefit by the operation, which was successfully performed in 25,024 cases.

59. The cost of the Medical Department for the year was 1,238*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*

60. There is no lunatic asylum nor charitable institution in the Settlement. A room in the gaol is made use of when required for female lunatics; and for males, similar accommodation is provided in the debtor's prison; 3 male and one female lunatics were taken care of during the year, being chronic cases.

61. Paupers.—About a couple are provided for the same as lunatics.

62. The cost of food and clothing for both lunatics and paupers is provided by the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency
Governor Ussher, C.M.G.
&c. &c.

Lagos.

Special Report on Sanitary Condition of Lagos.

Lieutenant-Governor Griffith, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Government House, Lagos,
December 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I have the honour to state, for your Lordship's information, that immediately after my arrival here I determined to give particular attention to the improvement of the sanitary condition of Lagos. Upon the portion of the principal street, called the Marina, sloping to the lagoon, garbage, refuse of all kinds, and street sweepings were always deposited, and the exhalations from this hot bed of filth were very offensive. In the rainy season grass islands, from the size of a square yard to a quarter of an acre, floated on to the Marina with fever laden germs. In many instances drains were choked. The night soil of 200 prisoners and invalids was thrown into the lagoon at all states of the tide, and being often washed on shore caused a dreadful stench in the direction of the powder magazine, as I have been informed. In the centre of the busiest part of the town the Government land attached to the Treasury was a swamp in the wet season, and my wonder is that the public officers in the building did not suffer more from fever. Cattle and sheep roamed about the streets, in many of which in the outskirts of the town large clumps of bushes and tall grass were to be seen.

2. I should be very sorry if it was thought that in making these remarks I intended to cast any reflection upon the gallant officer who preceded me in the administration of this Government, because I believe that he did all in his power with the resources at his command to promote sanitary measures in Lagos.

3. I found when the wet season began that the rain water lodged for some time in the Government House grounds, making the place damp. I also discovered an almost entire absence of such vegetable food as is grown in Barbadoes. I therefore determined to try and remedy both defects.

4. I had pits excavated 12 feet in length and 3½ feet in width and depth. After removing about 4 inches of surface soil the remainder was red sand, which I put aside for the moment, filling up the pits with the upper portion of the stuff on the Marina, and covering the remainder there with the sand. In a short time an immense quantity of rubbish was buried in the garden and covered over with sand on the slope of the Marina, upon which Bahama grass appeared and shortly covered the sand. The daily sweepings of the streets, with the bushes and grass that disfigured them, were utilised for the garden and the sand turned to account by the Colonial engineer. The refuse of stables, formerly thrown on the Marina, was given to me for the garden, the donors in due time receiving in return presents of cucumbers, cabbages, lettuce, English peas, turnips, tomatoes, beans, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables; and now so much is this manure sought

after, for Government House leading the way, a taste for gardening has begun, that, I understand, it has become an article of sale. I sent to the West Indies for seeds, and on reproduction gave them to the natives in all directions, and they often seek me to obtain more, and ask permission to see how my garden is arranged. In the matter of sweet potatoes, especially, they appear to be astonished at the results obtained as to yield, and seek eagerly for plants, which I gladly distribute to them.

5. The result of the experiment referred to has been the thorough drainage of my compound, the rain water being absorbed as it falls; the turning to useful account of the town refuse; the production of vegetables, fruit, and flowers; the former being of the greatest service, as the Colonial surgeon informs me, and the transformation of the dirty slope of the Marina into a nice tidy looking grassy incline, from which grass islands are rigidly excluded, being utilised elsewhere.

6. The success of the initial effort has encouraged me to take the Treasury swamp in hand, and as the garden beds are formed, the volume of water which is reached at 18 inches gradually but perceptibly lessens. I hope that in a month or two the whole of the land will have been cultivated, and the result should be, the drainage of a pestilential swamp, its conversion into a useful and ornamental garden, the removal of a nuisance, and a diminution of the malarial area.

7. At the back of the prison I found a large piece of useless public land. I had pits dug 3½ feet deep; the night soil is deposited in one of these until it is filled by dry earth within 18 inches of the surface, when it is closed up and planted over with vegetables. No scent is emitted under this arrangement. The prisoners have no longer to go morning and evening to the lagoon, the waters of which are thus preserved from their former pollution.

8. At the hospital I carried out the same plan, but on public land at some distance from the building.

9. In the proceedings referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8, I had the full concurrence of the Colonial surgeon, who said no danger was to be apprehended from percolation, owing to the absorbent quality of the dry sand and earth. More than two months have elapsed since I had the changes referred to made, and the plan is working most satisfactorily.

10. Cattle and sheep are no longer permitted to wander in the streets. These are kept clean by daily sweeping; choked drains have been cleared, and open drains improved, although there is still much to be done in this direction in the native portions of the town, and generally, but it will require a larger outlay than has hitherto been estimated for to accomplish this.

11. I look after sanitary measures as much as my other duties will allow. Every Saturday the inspector of nuisances reports to me personally the condition of the town, and thus I have got matters into tolerably manageable order.

12. I have the authority of Dr. McCarthy for stating that 1880 has been one of the healthiest years known in Lagos, and a few

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days ago he told me he had never known a healthier season than the present.

13. This report was intended to have been forwarded to Mr. Ussher at the close of the year. As I have to leave to-morrow for Accra I transmit it at once, and trust it will satisfy your Lordship that I have not been unmindful of my duty during the 11 months I have been here, with respect to the sanitary well-being of Lagos.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

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No. 12.

Governor Sir J. R. LONGDEN, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
October 30, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of Ceylon for 1879, and to submit the following report on its contents.

2. The year from a financial point of view has not been a prosperous one for the Colony. The coffee enterprise, upon which many large native interests intimately depend, continued to suffer from leaf disease, and the general depression of trade which prevailed in England and most other countries during the year exerted an unfavourable influence over the commerce and industries of the Island. Under these circumstances the revenue was unavoidably affected, and it became the duty of Government to exercise the strictest economy in expenditure compatible with the efficient maintenance of the public departments, and the prosecution of works of urgent necessity, to which it was pledged. That it was found possible under these unfavourable circumstances to provide for the expenditure from the gross revenue of the year is, I think, a satisfactory indication of the stability of the financial basis of the Colony.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue for 1879 amounted to Rs. 14,748,675 91, or 1,382,688*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* at 1*s.* 10½*d.* the rupee, the rate hitherto officially adopted for purposes of comparison, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,713,419 68¼, or 160,633*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with the revenue of 1878. The expenditure on the votes of the year was Rs. 14,687,837 48, or 1,376,984*l.* 15*s.* 3¾*d.*, being a decrease of Rs. 762,796 29, or 71,512*l.* 3*s.* 0¼*d.* on the similar expenditure for 1878. In addition to this expenditure there was expended

during the year a sum of Rs. 330,083 59, or 30,945*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, from balances brought forward from previous years, and a further sum of Rs. 775,000, or 72,656*l.* 5*s.* was appropriated from surplus funds by Ordinance No. 13 of 1879, bringing the gross total expenditure of the year to Rs. 15,792,921 7, or 1,480,586*l.* 7*s.* 0¾*d.* This total exhibits a decrease on the gross expenditure of 1878 of Rs. 987,227 32, or 92,552*l.* 11*s.* 2¼*d.* It should be borne in mind however that in 1878 the purchases made by the Colonial store were entered as expenditure, while the proceeds of sales therefrom were brought to account as revenue, whereby both sides of the Colonial accounts were fictitiously swollen, and that in 1879, under the new system of accounting for stores, the expenditure on "the Colonial store exclusive of Establishments" was limited to the cost of stores which are issued to the public departments free of cost, such as stationery. The decrease under the said heading of expenditure is Rs. 561,148 90, and this should be taken into account when comparing the expenditure of 1879 with that of 1878. The revenue of the year exceeded the expenditure on the votes of the year by Rs. 60,838 43, or 5,703*l.* 12*s.* 1¼*d.* If from this be deducted Rs. 60,000 the amount brought forward from the votes of the year for expenditure in 1880, the nett excess of revenue over expenditure is Rs. 838 43.

4. The following are the principal items of increase and decrease.

Revenue.

5. Under customs there is a general decrease of Rs. 144,534 51, owing chiefly to a falling off in the importation of grain and articles of food, while there is a noticeable increase of Rs. 19,891 34 in the export duty on plumbago, the royalty on which is levied at the customs.

Land Sales exhibit a decrease of Rs. 588,393 92½. The decrease under this head is not so much due to the diminution of valuable Crown land available for sale as to the effect of the financial depression in curtailing the purchasing operations of both Europeans and Natives.

Land Revenue.—Under the chief sub-head "Paddy" there is a decrease of Rs. 227,426 88½, which is attributable partly to a failure of crops and partly to the scarcity of money resulting from the general depression of trade, which influenced the price of paddy.

Licenses.—The arrack and toddy farms sold for less than in the preceding year, and the renters in some cases failed to pay the whole of their instalments when they fell due. The result is a decrease of Rs. 346,302 99. It is not expected that there will be any eventual loss in recovering the sums for which the rents were sold, but it has been necessary in some instances owing to the general depression to allow the renters time to meet their liabilities.

Stamps.—The receipts under the sub-head "General Stamps" were less than those in the previous year by Rs. 126,727 34, and afford a significant indication of the diminution of business transactions in the Colony.

Sale of Government Property.

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Salt.—The decrease of Rs. 122,634 31 is due to the demand for wholesale and exportation having fallen off during the year, and to the unfavourable shipping season at Hambantota.

Colonial Stores.—The revenue brought to account during the year under this head amounts to Rs. 678,795 26 being less than the revenue of 1878 by Rs. 98,751 62. From the commencment of 1879 the old system of charging the store with the cost of stores bought and crediting it with the proceeds of stores sold as revenue was done away with, and the system of treating the former as advances to the Colonial store, to be settled on the issue of the stores and the recovery by the store of the value thereof was introduced. The error which had formerly obtained of increasing the revenue and expenditure sides of the accounts by double entries was thereby cured, and in future years the only expenditure under the heading "Colonial store exclusive of Establishments" will be the cost of articles bought for free issue, and other necessary and irrecoverable expenditure on the store, and the only revenue will be the proceeds of the sale of surplus stores, and of the occasional issue of stores otherwise than to the civil Government departments, as for example, to the military authorities or to railway contractors. A valuation was made of the stores in stock at the date of the introduction of the new system, and the amount thereof, Rs. 670,025 48, was brought to account as revenue during the year. The sub-head timber shows an increase of Rs. 26,380 50.

Miscellaneous Receipts.—A sum of Rs. 74,958 33 was received by way of drawback for deficiencies in the number of troops supplied to the Colony.

Pearl Fishery.—Under this heading there is a casual increase of Rs. 83,979 46, the result of the fishery held in the early part of the year.

Railway receipts fell short of the receipts for 1878 by Rs. 79,282 22, notwithstanding the opening of the seaside line to Kalutara. This falling off was owing to the shortness of the coffee crop and the general flatness of trade.

VI.—*Expenditure.*

The expenditure shows increases under various heads amounting to Rs. 536,522 39, and decreases amounting to Rs. 1,299,318 68, the nett decrease being Rs. 762,796 29.

On establishments which include fixed and provisional salaries, contingencies, and allowances there is an increase of Rs. 141,708 30½. For a list of the increases and decreases in each department, I would beg leave to refer your Lordship to the statement of the Auditor General, which is contained in the Blue Book, and in further explanation to point out that the increase under the sub-head "Fixed Salaries" is due partly to the more ample appropriation during the year of the sums voted by the Fixed Establishment Ordinance, and partly to provision having

been made, as should always be done, but was not done previously, for bringing to account within the year the payments made towards the close of the year by the Crown Agents on account of salaries to officers on leave. As regards the sub-heading "Provisional Salaries," most of the increases in the establishments of the several Government Agents are due to the transfer to their departments of the payment of the salaries of prison officials within their provinces, and are compensated by corresponding reductions in the establishments of the fiscals, while the substantive total increase under the sub-heading is due to the creation of additional magistracies, the appointment of additional writers, and new appointments in the Police, Medical, and Educational Departments, all of which have received the sanction of the Secretary of State, the extension of the Coast Railway from Panadure to Kalutara, the extension of the Postal Department, and other unavoidable causes.

7. Under "Services exclusive of Establishment" there are increases amounting to Rs. 394,814 8½, and decreases amounting to Rs. 1,299,318 68, the nett result being a decrease of Rs. 904,504 59½.

Revenue services show an increase of Rs. 119,781 57, which is chiefly accounted for by an extension of the operations of the Forest Department, and by the transfer from the sub-heading "Miscellaneous" of expenditure on account of the Royal Botanic Gardens. The increase of Rs. 26,904 5½ under "Charitable Allowances" is attributable to the necessity for increased temporary relief to the destitute, chiefly in the Eastern and Central Provinces.

Education.—It is satisfactory to note an increase here of Rs. 23,624 70.

It is also satisfactory to find a reduction of Rs. 140,088 81½ under hospitals, as the reduction is entirely due to the abatement of sickness during the year.

Works and buildings show an inconsiderable decrease of Rs. 18,253 53, and roads, streets, bridges, and canals a relatively small increase of Rs. 97,515 16.

Miscellaneous.—The decrease of Rs. 151,341 1½ is mainly owing to the transfer of various items to other heads of expenditure.

Railway Services.—The expenditure in 1878 was swelled by the purchase of four locomotives, which accounts for the apparent decrease in 1879 of Rs. 88,654 84.

It was not possible to take a larger vote in 1879 than Rs. 150,000 for "Railway Construction." The votes taken from time to time for this fund are brought to account in the year in which they are taken. The vote in 1878 amounted to Rs. 300,000 and there is therefore a decrease in the expenditure for 1879 under this head of Rs. 150,000.

Electric Telegraph.—This service was performed as heretofore by the Indian Government, and there was no expenditure incurred in connexion therewith by the Ceylon Government during the year.

Exchange.—The decrease of Rs. 56,906 47 under this head is not owing to a more favourable rate of exchange, but to provision having been made in most of the Departmental votes for payment for stores at the rate of 1*s.* 8*d.* to the rupee.

Assets and Liabilities.

8. The assets of the Ceylon Government on December 31, 1879, amounted to Rs. 7,269,064 37½ or 681,474*l.* 15*s.* 8½*d.*, and the liabilities to Rs. 5,977,208 16¼, or 560,363*l.* 5*s.* 3½*d.*, the excess of the former over the latter being therefore Rs. 1,291,856 21¼, or 121,111*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

9. The debt of the Colony on the same date was 671,437*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, of which 350,000*l.* is the balance of the 700,000*l.* raised under the Ordinances Nos. 9 of 1862 and 7 of 1864 for the construction of the railway from Colombo to Kandy. For the repayment of this railway debt the sum of 58,000*l.* per annum is contributed from general revenue to a sinking fund, which had to its credit at the close of the year the amount of 239,418*l.*, the remainder of the debt consists of a sum of 200,000*l.* borrowed for the construction of the breakwater under Ordinance 1 of 1876, and of a sum of 121,437*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* received from the Public Works Commissioners under Ordinance 6 of 1875 for the same purpose. The railway loan bears interest at the rate of 6 per cent., and the breakwater loans at the rate of 4½ and 3½ per cent. respectively, and provision is made for paying off the principal and interest of the latter loans by periodical appropriations from general revenue.

Imports and Exports.

10. Exclusive of specie in each case the imports of the year were valued at Rs. 44,297,463 87, and the exports at Rs. 51,995,542 38, showing respectively a decrease of Rs. 2,797,354 83, and an increase of Rs. 5,836,020 21 in comparison with the similar totals for 1878. Adding the value of specie imported and exported, the imports amount to Rs. 53,647,305 87 and the exports to Rs. 52,916,672 38, giving a gross total of Rs. 106,563,978 25 as against Rs. 100,469,915 2 for the preceding year.

11. *Imports.*—The entries under this head call for no particular notice, with the exception of "Food Articles," which shows decreases under nearly every item, and "Grain" on which there is a diminution in the value imported of Rs. 1,372,100, and in the duty collected of Rs. 117,679.

12. *Exports.*—The returns of exports are satisfactory as compared with the previous year, and the decreases are unimportant, the largest being under cinnamon, Rs. 175,694, and coir stuff, Rs. 121,617; while the increases are considerable, the most noticeable being cinchona, Rs. 347,793; coffee, native and plantation, Rs. 6,339,797; cocoanut oil, Rs. 534,687; copperah, Rs. 131,059; dulmbago, Rs. 778,609; and tea, Rs. 64,329. The exports of

tea and cinchona are not yet sufficiently large to materially affect the customs totals, but looking to the large extent of land brought and being brought under cultivation with these products and the energy with which the new enterprizes are being prosecuted, there can be little doubt that ere long the export of these articles will form a very important part of the trade of the Colony. It may therefore be interesting to note here the returns for the three years ending with 1879, which are as follows :—

Cinchona bark. 1877, 72,127 lbs. valued at Rs. 85,737; 1878, 186,797 lbs., valued at Rs. 171,292; 1879, 507,368 lbs., valued at Rs. 519,085.

Tea, 1877, 2,105 lbs., valued at Rs. 3,457; 1878, 19,607 lbs., valued at Rs. 20,900; 1879, 81,493 lbs. valued at Rs. 85,229.

In regard to the principal exporting industry of the Island it should be remarked that though the export of coffee of both kinds, plantation and native, shows an increase in weight over that of 1878 of cwts. 148,129, and in value of Rs. 6,339,797, it shows a decrease as compared with 1877 in weight of 194,594 cwts., and in value of Rs. 9,467,937. I may also observe that the customs export return is not an exact measure of the annual crop as it gives the total shipments, which are not coincident with the total produce of the year. The coffee crop in 1879 was short, and the result of the deficiency necessarily re-acted on the revenue and general prosperity of the Island.

The deficiency is generally attributed to leaf disease, for which no effectual permanent cure has up to this date been discovered. The expectations which were formed of a successful treatment by the application of sulphur, and which seemed at one time to be partially justified by the apparent measure of success which attended the treatment, have not been realized, the plants, which as far as could be judged from appearances, derived a temporary relief by the application, were speedily re-attacked, and it is now generally held that sulphur is valueless as a permanent remedy for coffee leaf disease, at all events when applied subject to the conditions under which alone it is possible to apply it on coffee estates. It has therefore been abandoned. Nor has it been succeeded by any other general attempt at a cure. The disease prevailed during 1879 and disastrously affected the productiveness of the coffee trees, but whether from atmospheric changes or from other unassignable causes there is said to be a marked abatement in its virulence in the current year, and the prospects for next year have decidedly improved.

Shipping.

13. As compared with 1878 there is an increase of 10,008 tons inwards, and of 39,721 tons outwards.

Public Works.

14. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department, including the sums contributed for grant-in-aid roads under the Ordinance and other road contributions, was Rs. 4,913,999 being Rs. 639,639 or about 11½ per cent. under that of 1878. The cost of the establish ment, including salaries fixed and provisional, transport, allowances and contingencies, was Rs. 433,114, or a little less than 9 per cent. on the expenditure. The subjoined tables exhibit (1) a classification of the expenditure under the headings of establishment, construction, upkeep, repair, and improvement of roads, bridges, and buildings, and irrigation works; (2) the funds from which the expenditure has been met; (3) the expenditure incurred in the several Provinces, and (4) an abstract of the expenditure on the various classes of public works in each of the Provinces of the Island. The following important roads were completed during the year; viz., the third section of the Uda Pusselliwa Road, six miles of road to connect the coffee districts of Dimbula and Dikoya, the road from Nawalapitiya towards Dolosbage up to the 10¼ mile, three miles of the Rakwana Road, the road from Deniyaya to Wiharahena, the road from Hambantola to Janamalwila, and the Road from the Dikoya Post Office to the Blinkbonnie Gap. The expenditure on irrigation works was slightly greater than that of the preceding year, and amounted to Rs. 334,443 (exclusive of upkeep Rs. 32,628), and of this sum Rs. 128,639 was spent in the North Central Province, where the restoration of 13½ miles of the Yodi Ela was completed at a cost during the year of Rs. 51,306 and a total cost of Rs. 84,474, and village tanks were supplied with sluices to the value of Rs. 58,350.

The Queen's Houses are reported to be in good order except as regards the roofs which require repair. The furniture at the Queen's House, Colombo, and the Pavilion, Kandy, is reported by the Colonial Storekeeper to be in good condition, except the lamps at the latter house. The furniture at the Cottage, Nuwara Eliya, is not provided at the public expense.

Breakwater.

15. The expenditure on the breakwater, which is not included under the head public works, amounted to Rs. 551,471 20, bringing the total expenditure from the commencement of the work to Rs. 3,654,162 73. The work was advanced by an additional length of sea wall of 214 feet, and by an additional length of harbour wall of 375 feet.

Survey Department.

16. The sale of Crown lands is reported by the Surveyor General to have realized Rs. 725,000, including survey fees and

fees for tracings, of which 694,010 was brought to account during the year. The decrease, which is considerable as compared with the revenue from the sale of land in the preceding years subsequent to 1873, with the exception of 1875, is attributable to the influence of the depression both commercial and general, which largely restricted the purchasing power of the natives as well as of the Europeans, the average rate per acre realized on sales to each class respectively being Rs. 18.95 and Rs. 35 46, as against Rs. 23 71 and Rs. 61 45 in the previous year. The gross expenditure of the department from its own votes amounted to Rs. 367,263, of which Rs. 50,944 was expended on Chena, railway and forest surveys, and other work not directly reproductive, leaving the sum of Rs. 316, 319 as the cost of the ordinary work of surveying lands for sale and settlement. In the following tables will be found the details of the lots alienated in the different provinces, an abstract of the lands disposed of to Europeans and Natives respectively, and a return of all lands disposed of in each province during the year.

Railways.

17. The coast line was completed during the year to Kalutara by the addition of 9¾ miles of line, bringing the total railway mileage of the Colony open for public traffic, and excluding the 3½ miles of line for the carriage of materials for the Colombo harbour works, to 118¼ miles. The total earnings of the whole of the line, including freight on material for the harbour works, amounted to Rs. 3,349,509 as against Rs. 3,450,464 in 1878, and the working expenses to Rs. 1,424,461, as against Rs. 1,354,021. The main line showed a profit of about 9 per cent., on the capital expenditure. The branch line from Peradeniya to Nawalapitiya a profit of about 6½ per cent., and the coast line a profit of about 3¾ per cent., after deducting in each case the working expenses from the gross receipts. It is to be hoped that hereafter in more prosperous times the latter line may exhibit a better return.

Legislation.

18. The following Ordinances were passed during the year:—

No. 1. For making provision for the advance of a sum of money, by way of supplementary loan, for the construction of waterworks for the municipality of Kandy.

No. 2. To check coffee stealing. This Ordinance re-enacted with certain alterations the Ordinance No. 8. of 1874, which had been continued by Ordinance No. 13 of 1876, and had expired on December 31st, 1878. It was shown to the satisfaction of the Council that the main provisions of the original Ordinance, those namely which rendered loitering on estates, and the purchase of coffee from any labourer on an estate penal, and raised a presumption against possessors of green coffee, had had a beneficial effect

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and were still required in the interests of coffee growers and might fairly be re-enacted, and they were re-enacted accordingly. The seventh clause which forbade all purchase of coffee except where such purchase was recorded in the manner therein provided had practically become a dead letter, and if enforced would have been an undue restriction on legitimate commerce. It was therefore not re-enacted. The 12th clause, which provided for the admission in evidence on a subsequent charge of the proof of a previous conviction, was obviously in conflict with the general principles and law of evidence, and no sufficient grounds were adduced for its retention. It was therefore omitted in the new Ordinance. The Ordinance is operative for two years from the passing thereof and thereafter to the end of the then session (if any) of the Legislative Council.

No. 3. For making provision for the contingent services for the year 1880.

No. 4. To provide for the further appropriation of certain unclaimed balances from the funds of the Loan Board.

No. 5. To repeal the Ordinance No. 10 of 1862 and to make certain offences against the Indian Act No. VIII. of 1876 punishable in Ceylon.

No. 6. To further amend "The Toll Ordinance, 1867."

No. 7. For the raising by debentures of a sum of two hundred and ninety-one thousand pounds for the construction of waterworks for and on behalf of the municipality of Colombo.

No. 8. For making final provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1878.

No. 9. To provide for the validity of the registration of certain marriages, births, and deaths made in certain districts in the Southern Province of this Island.

No. 10. To establish further tolls and to discontinue certain tolls.

No. 11. For making provision for the supplemenary contingent charges for the year 1879.

No. 12. To amend in certain respects the Ordinance No. 17 of 1869, intituled "An Ordinance for the general regulation of "customs in the Island of Ceylon," No. 14 of 1871, intituled "An "Ordinance to adjust customs duties to the currency of rupees and "cents." and No. 22 of 1873, intituled "An Ordinance to amend "the licensing Ordinance, 1873.

No. 13.—To apply a portion of the surplus revenues of past years to works and services of acknowledged public utility.

Power was taken by this Ordinance to appropriate a sum of Rs. 775,000 from the available surplus of Rs. 1,131,493, which had accrued from the revenue of previous years. The major part of this appropriation, Rs. 575,000, was allotted to works on the main line of railway, including a new bridge over the Kelani River, to replace the existing bridge, which had been reported not to possess a sufficient margin of safety; and with the remainder provision was made for telegraph extension, and the refund due

to the Indian Government on account of telegraphs, and for the completion of the road from Wellawaya to Hambantota.

No. 14. To provide for the naturalisation of Antoine Joseph Van Der Poorten.

No. 15. For continuing the Ordinance No. 10 of 1876, intituled "An Ordinance to repeal the Wharf and Warehouse Ordinance, "1865, and to make further provision for the establishment in "Colombo and regulation of a company to perform the duties "of wharfingers and warehousemen."

The Ordinance, No. 10 of 1876, under which certain powers were given to and certain duties imposed on the Wharf and Warehouse Company, was timed to expire on June 30, 1880, before the next session of the Legislative Council. It therefore became necessary to make further provision in this behalf. When the matter came before the Council it was thought desirable, owing to certain representations which had been received from various quarters, to appoint a sub-committee to take evidence and report on the working of the Company, and it was therefore determined to continue the operation of the existing Ordinance until the end of the session of the year 1880, in order that before passing in that session a new Ordinance which should deal with the question for a term of years, the Legislative Council might have the opportunity of carefully considering the evidence elicited by the sub-committee, and their report to the Council.

Public Health.

19. I have much satisfaction in reporting that the Island was exceptionally free from serious disease during the year. It enjoyed a perfect immunity from cholera and suffered but slightly from smallpox, with the exception of the Eastern Province, and on the whole the year is shown by the reports of the medical officers and the hospital returns to have been the healthiest in the quinquennial period from 1875 to 1879 inclusive. The results of the year as shown in the returns of the civil hospitals are summarised in the table which is subjoined.

Education.

20. The amount expended on education in 1879 was Rs. 445,228, showing an excess of Rs. 36,172 over the expenditure for 1878. The number of Government schools was increased by 16, from 356 to 372, with an attendance of 19,120 scholars, as against 17,896 in 1878, and the number of grant-in-aid schools by 42, from 772 to 814, with an attendance of 59,944 scholars, as against 49,854. It appears also from the returns that the average daily attendance formed a higher per-centage than in 1878 on the number of pupils on the school rolls. The sum of Rs. 161,926 or Rs. 19,213 more than the payments in 1878, was paid during the year on account of grant's in aid. In the following tables are shown—(1)

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the classification of the Government schools with the number of the pupils and the average attendance; (2) the classification of the grant in aid schools; (3) the number of schools and pupils, the population and the proportion under instruction in each of the several provinces; (4) the cost to Government of educating each pupil in the different classes of Government schools after deducting the amount received in the shape of fees; (5) the amounts earned by the different classes of grant in aid schools; and (6) the amounts of the grants received by each of the several missions.

(1.)

	Number of Schools.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total Number of Boys and Girls.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage.
GOVERNMENT.						
English - -	21	1,301	252	1,553	1,139	73
Anglo-vernacular -	33	1,394	126	1,520	1,271	83
Vernacular - -	318	13,967	2,080	16,047	11,342	70

(2.)

	Number of Schools.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total Number of Boys and Girls.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage.
GRANT IN AID:						
English - -	69	5,971	786	6,757	4,811	71
Anglo-vernacular -	82	3,946	626	4,572	3,270	71
Vernacular - -	663	30,959	13,656	44,615	28,455	63

(3.)

Class of Schools.	Western Province.		Southern Province.		Central Province.		North-western Province.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
Superior - -	7	971	4	571	1	107	—	—
Middle - -	153	11,225	27	1,654	26	1,539	15	1,424
Primary - -	383	23,920	77	3,595	61	2,628	43	2,369
Total - -	543	36,116	108	5,820	88	4,274	58	3,793
Population - -	766,285		399,755		495,340		276,776	
Proportion under instruction according to Census of 1871.	1 in 21		1 in 68		1 in 116		1 in 72	

(*continued.*)

Class of Schools.	North Central Province.		Northern Province.		Eastern Province.		Total.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
Superior - -	—	—	8	1,213	3	280	23	3,142
Middle - -	—	—	126	9,543	12	857	359	26,242
Primary - -	8	224	154	8,523	78	4,421	804	45,680
Total - -	8	224	288	19,279	93	5,558	1,186	75,064
Population - -	63,038		281,788		113,290		2,406,262	
Proportion under instruction according to census of 1871.	1 in 281		1 in 14		1 in 20		1 in 32	

(4.)

Superior Instruction.

	Cost per head to Government. Rs. cts.
Colombo Academy - -	- 101 47
Normal School - - -	- 345 21
Galle Central School - -	- 54 61

Middle and Primary Instruction.

Boys' English schools - -	- 22 53
Boys' Anglo-vernacular schools -	- 11 20
Boys' Vernacular schools -	- 5 17
Girls' English schools - -	- 42 79
Girls' Anglo-vernacular schools -	- 22 44
Girls' Vernacular school -	- 4 70

(5.)

	Number of Schools.	Number of Children Examined.	Total Number of Children on List.	Amount of Grant.	Average per Head of Children Examined.	Average per Head of Total No. in School.
				Rs. cts.		
English Schools	69	{ 4,086 / *2,018 }	6,757	†43,874 50	10·73	6·49
Anglo-vernacular.	82	2,334	4,572	16,530 95	7·08	3·61
Vernacular -	645	18,883	44,060	112,453 09	5·95	2·55

* Number examined in vernacular literature.

† This includes Rs. 5,116 5, being amount earned by 31 English Schools in vernacular literature.

(6.)

	English.	Anglo-vernacular.	Vernacular.	C.	Total.	Amount of Grants.
						Rs. cts.
American - -	4	11	113	0	128	26,439 36
Baptist - -	0	8	24	0	32	5,189 65
Church of England (C.M.S.) -	7	32	122	13	174	25,349 12
Church of England (S.P.G.) -	15	9	48	1	73	16,927 97
Presbyterian -	0	0	2	0	2	251 40
Private - -	3	2	18	0	23	7,080 74
Roman Catholic -	25	2	160	1	188	56,665 37
Wesleyan - -	15	18	158	3	194	35,830 92
	69	82	645	18	814	173,734 53

Judicial Statistics.

A lamentable increase will be observed in the cases of serious crimes tried by the superior courts, and especially in serious offences against the person and offences against property accompanied with violence. This increase is attributed by the late Acting Queen's Advocate, and rightly in my opinion, to the effects of the financial depression from which the Colony suffered during the year, and also to the results of the ruling of the Supreme Court, as to the evidence necessary for a conviction of "promiscuous gambling" under Ordinance No. 4 of 1841. By reason of this ruling it became almost impossible to convict of the offence, and as a natural consequence there was an increase of gambling throughout the country, and of the offences which are known by those acquainted with the native population to follow in its train. The state of crime has been fully dealt with in my Despatch No. 48 of 14th February 1880, to which I beg leave to refer your Lordship for further observations.

22. Prefixed to the Blue Book will be found a table giving a statistical view of the progress of the Colony from the year 1821 to 1879, inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1878 and 1879.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

No. 13.

Governor Sir G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Mauritius,
MY LORD, September 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1879, together with the customary Report thereon.

2. It will be seen from the statistics that a short sugar crop produced the usual results of a falling off in the public revenue and an increase in crime. The sugar crop had been affected by the hurricane of the previous year, and by a prolonged draught. Most fortunately, however, the price of sugar remained at exceptionally high rates, which in some degree compensated the planters for the serious losses they would otherwise have sustained.

3. It will be seen that, in spite of a decrease of revenue, it was still found possible to meet current expenses from the usual sources; and that the financial transactions of the year show a credit surplus of more than Rs. 200,000.

4. No hurricane occurred during the year under review (1879.)

5. A cattle plague which broke out during the early part of 1879 is not yet extinct, and has destroyed the greater part of the horned cattle. Fortunately, the extension of railways throughout the Island has rendered it easy to carry the staple commodity of this Colony to the port without the aid of beasts of burden.

6. The year 1879 will be memorable in the history of Mauritius, because the new Labour Code was brought into full operation during its course. It is now generally agreed that this law, and the regulations framed under it for the hospitals, Indian "camps," and other purposes, are working well, and are giving satisfaction to the planters as well as to the Indian Coolies, who now form the peasantry of this Island.

7. One of the principal events of the past year was the despatch of a portion of the garrison of Mauritius to reinforce the Queen's troop's serving in South Africa. This was done immediately the news of the Isandulhana disaster reached this Island, and the contingent sent did good service at the battle of Ulundi and elsewhere.

8. The branch railway to Moka was commenced in 1879, and the works were pushed on with vigour. They are now (in September 1880) completed. The progress of the other public works has been satisfactory.

9. The year 1879 was a year of some anxiety; but the prosperity of previous seasons, the high price of sugar, and the sound

MAURITIUS.

condition of the Colony generally, together with a careful administration of the finances, enabled both the Government and the community at large to pass easily through a period which, after all, was perhaps marked rather by an absence of the exuberant prosperity of 1878, than by absolute reverses.

10. It will be remembered that I assumed the Government of this beautiful and most interesting Island in April of last year; and that, consequently 1879 is the first year on which I have been called upon to furnish the customary annual report, showing the general condition of the Colony. I may be permitted to repeat the remark of one of the most eminent of my predecessors to the effect that the progress achieved, under manifold difficulties, by this small community in so limited an area, filled him with surprise and admiration. For Mauritius, though not larger in extent than an average English county, has an annual public revenue exceeding 700,000*l.*; that is, equal to the public revenue of all England in the reign of Charles II.; and an annual trade (including exports and imports,) valued at nearly 6,000,000*l.* sterling, that is, equal to the trade of all England in the reign of Queen Anne. Thus, Mauritius, "the Malta of the Indian Ocean" *cette Malta de l'Océan Indian,* as it is called by M. Thiers (*History of the Consulate and Empire, Book* 54), while ranking as a first class naval and military station with Gibraltar, Malta, Hong Kong, and Bermuda, is more important to the Empire, as also a wealthy Colony, carrying on a valuable trade with Great Britain, and with the British Colonies. It will be recollected, moreover, that Mauritius pays a military contribution, at the rate of 70*l.* for every artilleryman and engineer, and of 40*l.* for every soldier of the line, towards the support of its small garrison of Imperial troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. BOWEN.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT on the MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK for 1879.

I.—*Taxation.*

The alterations made in taxes, duties, and fees during 1879 were as follows:—

(*a.*) Ordinance No. 11 of 1879 effected some change in the fees to be paid to Veterinary Surgeons for the examination of animals introduced into the Colony.

(*b.*) Government Notice No. 31 of 1879, promulgated a Regulation under Ordinance 18 of 1876 respecting a tax on Traction Engines used in the city of Port Louis and the country districts respectively.

(*c.*) Government Notice No. 212 of 1879, gave effect to some changes in Postal Rates.

II.—*Receipts and Expenditure.*

The following table shows the receipts of the last two years and compares them with the previous 10 years:—

Heads of Receipts.	Average for Ten Years ending 31st December 1877.	1878.	1879.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Customs	2,247,685	2,708,214	2,613,066
2. Harbour dues	228,193	259,609	255,459
3. Land sales	19,496	13,654	10,702
4. Land revenue	38,645	38,196	53,670
5. Rents, exclusive of land	5,991	5,632	12,332
6. Transfer, registration, and mortgage dues	231,267	2 29,182	214,464
7. Licenses and permits	1,761,404	1,970,221	1,950,338
8. Stamps	107,699	107,896	131,398
9. Taxes	133,825	145,996	147,898
10. Postage	50,446	61,804	57,690
11. Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	133,966	98,487	99,551
12. Fees of office	74,190	57,583	55,157
13. Forests (began only in 1876, average of two years)	10,103	6,277	7,308
14. Sale of Government property	24,564	40,110	39,778
15. Reimbursements	207,201	240,092	210,714
16. Miscellaneous receipts	73,884	159,361	147,676
17. Sanitary Receipts (began only in 1876 average of two years)	22,077	24,023	25,085
18. Interest	189,075	201,737	192,751
19. Special receipts	3,313	3,411	4,019
20. Railway traffic	1,133,058	1,517,461	1,402,287
21. Rodrigues (began only in 1877)	7,127	6,590	5,952
Total	6,703,209	7,895,536	7,637,295

The rate of revenue per head of population in 1879 was Rs. 21 34 c. against Rs. 22 26 c. in 1878.

The decrease in receipts is chiefly due to the reduction of the sugar crop and the consequent falling off in railway traffic and trade.

The expenditure for the two last years is shown and compared in the following table :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Average of Ten Years ending 31st December 1877.	1878.	1879.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Establishments, (salaries) -	2,049,962	2,067,549	2,116,502
Allowances and Contingencies - -	191,610	137,067	129,988
	53,515	36,474	38,851
2. Pensions - - -	143,820	173,178	183,765
3. Harbours, coast services, &c. -	79,279	58,686	103,486
4. Revenue services - -	82,160	20,457	13,761
5. Administration of justice -	82,949	71,709	74,851
6. Ecclesiastical - - -	27,206	29,593	29,750
7. Charitable allowances - -	1,457	1,793	1,458
8. Education - - -	57,226	89,631	90,827
9. Hospitals - - -	78,625	34,605	43,419
10. Police - - - -	70,289	58,583	49,389
11. Gaols - - - -	4,156	7,592	3,578
12. Rent - - - -	58,091	60,366	61,409
13. Transport - - -	36,374	73,529	118,720
14. Mails - - - -	68,915	53,065	56,517
15. Works and buildings - -	164,193	447,605	404,915
16. Roads and bridges - -	143,493	215,084	187,399
17. Forests (began only in 1877) -	3,490	5,500	2,795
18. Miscellaneous services -	272,315	267,807	202,922
19. Interest and exchange -	190,457	398,270	454,863
20. Civil stores - - -	271 ,982	331,858	351,037
21. Military contribution - -	250,314	150,000	336,870
22. Immigration - -	98,840	68 ,277	57,980
23. Refund of duties - -	53,760	9,980	8,901
24. Quarantine - - -	6,386	11,995	1 0,171
25. Debenture debt - -	914,475	981,398	826,219
26. Railway working department -	901,934	1,005,563	949,467
27. General Board of Health (average of three years from 1875 only) - - -	379,413	184,659	271,385
28. Poor Law department (do.) -	331,495	293,454	279,700
29. Rodrigues (began only in 1877)	466	459	1,104
30. Quays (average of nine years only to 1876) - -	122,941	—	—
Total - -	7,191,588	7,345,786	7,461,999

The rate of expenditure per head of population in 1879 was Rs. 20·88, against Rs. 20·71 in 1878.

The increase in the expenditure is chiefly due to arrears of the military contribution having been paid up in 1879.

III.—*Local Revenues.*

	Rs.
The actual revenue of the municipal corporation of Port Louis during 1879 amounted to -	385,151
The actual expenditure to - - -	426,637

These figures show a deficit of Rs. 41,486, which was met from sums in deposit at end of 1878.

	Rs.
The average municipal revenue for the five years preceding 1879 amounted to - - -	399,131
The average expenditure for the same period to -	391,181

The total debt of the corporation on the 31st December 1879 amounted to Rs. 1,339,178. Of this amount Rs. 1,299,000 is due on debentures redeemable as follows:—

	Rs.		Rs.
1881 - -	80,800	1888 - -	302,000
1884 - -	218,400	1889 - -	92,400
1885 - -	367,000		
1886 - -	130,800	Total -	1,299,000
1887 - -	107,600		

There was a slight decrease of indebtedness during 1879, the amount of the debt at the close of the previous year having been Rs. 1,344,769.

The sinking fund for the redemption of the debentures amounted at the close of 1879 to Rs. 224,200, as against Rs. 184,200 at the close of 1878.

IV.—*Assets and Liabilities.*

(*a.*) *Commissioners of Currency.*

The currency notes in circulation at the end of 1879 amounted to the value of Rs. 3,548,500.

The assets of the Commissioners of Currency consisted of—

	Rs.
(1.) Specie reserve - - - -	2,004,250
(2.) Sums invested in England - -	1,663,163
Total - - -	3,667,413

These figures show a surplus of assets amounting to Rs. 118,913, due to increases of value in the securities purchased.

(*b.*) *Savings Bank.*

The total amount due to the depositors at the end of 1879 (including interest for the year) was Rs. 2,649,655; and the assets of the savings bank were as follows:—

	Rs.
(1.) Loans on real property in the Colony -	93,252
(2.) Invested in England - - -	1,170,533
(3.) In local chartered banks - - -	1,374,156
(4.) In hands of district cashiers - -	11,714
Total - - - -	2,649,655

(c.) *Curatelle.*

The liabilities of the Curatelle, including interest for 1879 amounted to Rs. 309,332.

The assets consisted of—

	Rs.
(1.) Loans on real property in the Colony -	50,882
(2.) Cash balance in banks - -	258,450
Total - - - -	309,332

(d.) *Treasury proper.*

On the 31st December 1879, the assets of the Treasury proper exceeded the liabilities by Rs. 1,581,569. The surplus assets of the Colony had increased during the year by Rs. 323,397.

V.—*Military Expenditure.*

The military contribution paid by the Colony during 1879 amounted to Rs. 336,870.

The troops in the Colony on the 31st of December were as follows:—

Staff - - - -	12
Artillery - - - -	113
Infantry - - - -	306
Total - -	431

VI.—*Criminal Justice.*

The number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates during 1879 was 30,873 as against 28,860 during 1878. As usual a fall of revenue was accompanied by an increase of crime.

The prosecutions amounted to 26,699, an increase of 666 on the figures of 1878.

The following table shows the number of persons brought before the several courts during the past five years:—

PERSONS PROSECUTED.

Courts.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
Assize - -	94	75	84	57	68
District - -	22,701	20,169	19,934	18,957	21,694
Stipendiary - -	12,911	13,914	7,995	7,016	4,937
Total - -	35,706	34,158	28,013	26,030	26,699

The proportion of unsuccessful cases in the District Courts continues about the same as in former years.

1875	acquittals	35·75	per cent. of prosecutions.
1876	„	35·61	
1877	„	33·78	
1878	„	37·24	
1879	„	35·71	

In the Assize Court the prosecutions were wholly successful in 34 out of a total of 42 cases. In four cases one or more of the accused were condemned; and in four cases only was there no conviction.

The following table shows broadly the nature of the offences tried during 1879 in all the courts:—

Persons Prosecuted.

Murder or attempt at murder - -	23
Other offences against the person -	2,579
Offences against property - -	4,202
Miscellaneous and minor offences -	19,898

One criminal was executed during the year for murder.

VII.—*Government Reformatory.*

The number of boys in the reformatory on the 31st of December 1879 was 156, or 14 more than on the same day of the previous year.

The daily average number of boys was 140 in 1878, against 147 in 1879.

The committals during 1879 amounted to 64. Of the boys committed 38 had never been convicted before; 24 had been convicted once before; and against two were recorded two or more previous convictions.

Of the boys committed during last year 29 were Indians, and 35 were Creoles.

The number apprenticed from the opening of the reformatory in 1868, to the close of the last year has been 331.

Sixteen boys escaped during the year, and 15 were recaptured.

The gross expenditure of the establishment was Rs. 22,001 or Rs. 642 more than in 1878. The value of the work done for sale was Rs. 5,561, as against Rs. 4,688 during 1878.

There were two deaths of boys during 1879, as against five during 1878.

VIII.—*Education.*

The following table shows the number of pupils on the rolls in Government elementary schools, and the average attendance at each during the past three years:—

Government Schools.

Year.	Average Number of Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage attending as compared with Numbers on Roll.
1877 - -	5,138	3,183	61
1878 - -	5,337	3,374	63
1879 - -	5,239	3,271	62

In 1879 there were on the rolls on examination days 4,934 scholars.

The number of pupils examined under the different grades of attainment as laid down in the official schedule of instruction was 2,823. The remainder of the 4,414 scholars present were not examined.

2,260 passed in reading.
2,040 „ writing.
1,910 „ arithmetic.

The number of pupils of Indian race in Government schools were:—

	Born in Mauritius.	Born in India.	Total.
Boys - -	1,556	50	1,606
Girls - -	187	3	190
Total - -			1,796

of the above (370 boys + 57 girls) = 427 were Mahomedans and (1,088 boys + 72 girls) = 1,160 Hindus.

The total expenditure in Government schools in 1879 (except books, stationery, and general superintendence) was Rs. 117,040. Fees amounting to Rs. 7,109 were collected, and the average cost of each pupil attending, deducting the fees received, was Rs. 31·27.

Grant-in-Aid Schools.

The following schools received grants-in-aid:—

Roman Catholic - - -	39
Church of England - - -	18
Independent - - - -	2
Total - -	59

The number of pupils on the rolls of these schools, and their average attendance was as follows during the last three years:—

Year.	Average Number of Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance.
1877 - -	3,624	2,425	66
1878 - -	4,161	2,781	66
1879 - -	4,363	2,849	65

The total expenditure in State-aided schools was Rs. 42,337, and the average cost of each pupil attending was Rs. 14·34.

Two thousand three hundred and eighty-four scholars were examined with the following results:—

1,934 passed in reading.
1,831 „ writing.
1,625 „ arithmetic.

The number of pupils of Indian race attending State-aided schools was:—

	Born in Mauritius.	Born in India.	Total.
Boys - -	932	16	948
Girls - -	273	4	277
Total - - -			1,225

Of these Indian children (138 boys + 26 girls) = 164 were Mahomedans, and (669 boys + 88 girls) = 757 Hindus.

IX.—*Railways.*

The receipts and expenses for the two last years are given in the following table:—

—	1878.	1879.
	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts - - - - -	1,517,461	1,402,287
Expenses - - - - -	1,005,563	949,467
Surplus of receipts - - - -	511,898	452,820
Per-centage of expenses to receipts -	66·26	67·77

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The number of passengers carried in 1879 was 1,157,990, which shows an increase of 19,227 as compared with 1878.

In general goods traffic there was a decrease both in general merchandise and sugar, as shown in the following table:—

Years.	Kilos of general Goods.	Kilos of Sugar.
1878 - -	129,685,711	89,725,169
1879 - -	119,979,184	58,679,263
Decrease, 1879	9,706,527	31,045,906

X.—*Post Office.*

The total revenue collected in the Post Office Department during 1879 amounted to Rs. 69,017, as against Rs. 80,212 in 1878. The decrease of Rs. 11,195 is attributable to reductions in postal rates.

The following is the return of letters and newspapers received and despatched by mail packets during the past two years:—

—	Letters.	Newspapers.
1878 - -	179,950	278,648
1879 - -	202,325	282,516

The increase of 22,375 letters, and 3,868 newspapers is considerable for a single year.

Letters and newspapers were received and despatched by private ships as follows:—

—	Letters.	Newspapers.
1878 -	36,046	30,132
1879 - -	41,215	29,355

This shows an increase of 5,169 letters and a decrease of 777 newspapers.

An increase of business is shown in the return relative to the district post offices :—

—	Letters.	Newspapers.
1878 - -	265,378	365,038
1879 - -	328,523	370,087

These figures show an increase in 1879 of 63,145 letters and 5,049 newspapers.

Post cards were brought into use in 1879, and the number of daily deliveries in Port Louis was increased from three to seven per diem.

XI.—*Telegraph.*

The total number of telegraphic messages during 1879 was 145,998, as against 91,364 during the previous year. The increase of 54,634 was principally in train signals, railway messages, and paid telegrams.

The receipts in cash of the two past years stand as follows :—

	Rs.
1878 - - - - -	8,500
1879 - - - - -	8,797

The estimated value of the Government messages sent during the year was Rs. 3,317 as against Rs. 1,229 in 1878.

XII.—*Public Works.*

The expenditure on public works in 1879 fell short of that in 1878 by Rs. 42,690. The principal works executed were (1) New Lunatic Asylum in part, (2) completing the upper storey of the Colonial Secretary's office, (3) raising by 10 feet the 25 ton crane on the wharf and repairing it, (4) extraordinary repairs to the quay walls and raising them, (5) extensive alterations in the Receiver General's office. In addition there was during the greater part of the year the Moka Branch Railway in construction (paid for out of a special loan) ; also sanitary works chiefly in canalizing streams in Port Louis, (the expenditure on these is not included in the public works vote.)

The system of maintaining the main roads by contract has been extended. The expenditure on roads and bridges in 1879 fell short of that in 1878 by Rs. 27,685.

Considerable progress was made in 1879 in determining the boundaries of the Crown lands.

XIII.—*Savings Bank.*

The following statement shows the progress of the savings bank during the past five years:—

Years.	No. of open Accounts at End of Year.	Amount due to Depositors.
	No.	Rs.
1875 - - - -	11,147	2,415,540
1876 - - - -	11,432	2,422,644
1877 - - - -	11,741	2,456,938
1878 - - - -	12,460	2,578,008
1879 - - - -	12,784	2,649,655

The total amount of deposits received in 1879 was Rs. 1,041,544, being an increase of Rs. 102,074, or nearly 11 per cent. on the deposits of 1878.

The amount deposited by Indians in 1879 was Rs. 480,863 or Rs. 9,553 more than in 1878. The total number of depositors was 12,784 in 1879, or 324 above the return of the previous year. The average amount held by each depositor was Rs. 207, the same as in the previous year. The amount held by Indians was during the close of 1879, Rs. 1,313,877, a decrease of Rs. 30,240 on the return of 1878.

The business of the bank is increasing; the branch banks in the country districts are more and more resorted to; and the steady growth of the numbers of depositors is most satisfactory.

XIV.—*Population.*

The estimated population on the 31st December 1879 was as follows:—

Indian.

Males - - -	150,857	
Females - - -	92,529	
		243,386

General.

Males - - -	60,063	
Females - - -	53,890	
		113,953

Total.

Males - - -	210,920	
Females - - -	146,419	
		357,339

The Indian population increased by 1,492 during the year 1879, and the general population by 1,224. The total increase was 2,616.

XV.—*Immigration.*

The number of Indian immigrants landed in 1879 was:—

Men - - - - -	852
Women - - - -	1,758
Boys - - - - -	220
Girls - - - - -	181
Infants - - - -	68
Total - -	3,079

During 1878 the arrivals amounted to 4,826. There was therefore a decrease of 1,747. The immigrants of 1879 arrived in 9 vessels, of which 3 were from Calcutta and 6 from Madras. Amongst the immigrants introduced 386 declared they had previously immigrated to this and other Colonies. Of the men, 147 had previously come to Mauritius.

The rate of mortality at sea shows a decrease upon the last two years.

Port.	Year.	Rate of Mortality.
Calcutta - -	1877	10·6 per 1,000.
	1878	7·9 „
	1879	5·9 „
Madras - -	1877	2·3 „
	1878	1·9 „
	1879	1·3 „

The number of immigrants who left Mauritius during the year was 2,555 of whom 629 were females. The departures exceeded those of 1878 by 730. These immigrants declared that they possessed and took with them savings amounting to Rs. 386,963. The largest sum taken by any one man during 1879 was Rs. 7,040. Of the emigrants 429 declared they had no savings. Those who paid their passages numbered 2,133, and 303 had their passages paid by Government. During 1879 Rs. 7,927 were remitted to India by immigrants.

The following figures give the Indian immigrant population at the close of 1878 and 1879:—

1878	Males -	98,188	Total 140,698
	Females -	42,510	
1879	Males -	95 241	Total 137,095
	Females -	41,854	

There was thus during 1879 a decrease of 3,603, or 2,869 male and 734 female immigrants.

The death rate among Indians on sugar estates was 29·7 per 1,000, as against 23·3 in 1878. The rate was somewhat less

than that of the general population, and was lower by 6 per 1,000 than that of the aggregate Indian population. The number of suicides among the Indian population was 35 as against 49 in 1878.

The number of engagements passed before magistrates during 1879 was 56,582, of which 36,613 were re-engagements with former masters. The engagements during 1878 were 62,535, and there has thus been a marked decrease in engagements under written contract. Full information on this point is contained in the annual report of the Protector of Immigrants.

The number of convictions of Indians under the Labour Law was 2,618 against 3,324 in 1878. The convictions of employers on complaints preferred by Indian servants were 440 during 1879 as against 770 in 1878. The convictions for nonpayment of wages fell from 471 in 1878 to 308 in 1879. The steadily declining number of cases in the courts is very satisfactory.

XVI.—*Legislation.*

Fourteen Ordinances were passed during the year, the most important of which were:—

No. 1. Amending the Labor Ordinance No. 12 of 1878.

No. 3. Providing for the Construction of the Moka Railway.

No. 4. Giving the Board of Health Power to deal with Contagious Diseases among Animals.

No. 5. To allow of the Formation of Limited Liability Companies for the Purpose of working Sugar Estates, &c.

No. 6. The Moka Railway Loan Ordinance.

No. 7 & 10. Ordinances providing for the Conversion of certain Loans.

No. 12. An Ordinance empowering the Governor in Council to fix Postal Rates by Regulation.

XVII.—*Port Louis Prison.*

The daily average of criminal prisoners in the Port Louis gaol during 1879 was 483, against 559 in the previous year. The centesimal death-rate for the year was 4·76, against 4·92 in 1878.

The total number of persons convicted in 1879 by the courts of Port Louis and committed to the Port Louis prison were as follows:—

Europeans - - - -	228
Creoles of blood partly white - -	33
Indians - - - -	1,195
Indo-Mauritians, or Creole Indians -	249
Africans, or Malagassee - -	91
Chinese - - - -	20
Other races - - - -	538
Total - - -	2,354

Of the number of prisoners committed, 230 had been previously committed once; 81, twice; 162, three times or oftener.

The sentences they had to undergo were as follows:—

Death - - - - - -	2
Five years' imprisonment or more - - -	18
More than one year and less than five years -	28
„ six months, but not more than one year	49
„ three months, but not more than six months	82
„ one month, but not more than three months	206
Not exceeding one month - - -	1,941
Debtors - - - - - -	28
Total - - - -	2,354

The offences committed by prisoners amounted to 4,966, 1,494 more than during the year 1878.

The increase in the number of punishments in 1879 is due to the establisement of a penal diet whereby penalties could be inflicted for minor breaches of prison discipline for which adequate means of punishment had not before been provided.

The total number of punishments in 1879 gives an average of 13·7 daily, or a per-centage of 2·7 on the daily lock up.

11 prisoners escaped in 1879, of whom 9 were re-captured.

The expenditure of the Port Louis prison amounted to Rs. 79,458 91c., against Rs. 92,523 during the previous year. These figures include all expenses except for buildings occupied. The average annual cost of each prisoner was Rs. 164 10c.

The value of work performed in the prison, deducting cost of materials supplied was Rs. 10,341 53c.

The approximate value of the outdoor labour of prisoners, on sanitary and other works, was Rs. 18,658.

XVIII.—*Establishments.*

The following table shows the amount paid for salaries, allowances, and contingencies during each year for the 10 years ending with 1879. The payments for last year amounted to Rs. 44,251 more than those for 1878 :—

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances and Contingencies.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1870 - -	2,024,110	275,450	2,299,560
1871 -	2,040,030	272,170	2,312,200
1872 - -	2,051,440	246,030	2,297,470
1873 - -	2,049,810	236,110	2,285,920
1874 - -	2,047,500	241,140	2,288,640
1875 - -	2,029,450	228,940	2,258,390
1876 - -	1,988,480	227,760	2,216,240
1877 - -	2,023,340	174,510	2,197,850
1878 - -	2,067,549	173,541	2,241,089
1879 - -	2,116,502	168,839	2,285,341

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XIX.—*Trade.*

The value of imports and exports respectively in 1878 and 1879 was as follows:—

—	1878.	1879.	In 1879.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
IMPORTS.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise -	21,193,496	20,295,347	—	898,149
Specie - -	1,099,966	3,202,771	2,102,805	—
EXPORTS.				
Merchandise -	37,175,156	30,622,032	—	6,553,124
Specie - -	598,634	1,740,554	1,141,920	—
Total -	60,067,252	55,860,704	3,244,725	7,451,273

The rates of imports and exports per head of population in the last two years were as follows:—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1878 - -	62 86	106 51
1879 - -	65 76	90 55

In addition to the specie noted above as exported, Indian immigrants returning to their country carried with them specie to the value of Rs. 243,547 as against Rs. 186,446 in 1878.

The quantity of home-made sugar exported during the last five years and its estimated value are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Tons.	Value.	Rate per Ton.
		Rs.	Rs. cts.
1875 - -	87,449	19,393,780	221 77
1876 - -	115,801	26,980,600	232 98
1877 - -	136,292	37,498,740	275 12
1878 - -	128,329	33,617,848	261 96
1879 - -	103,576	27,034,797	261 06

The value of the principal articles of home produce, other than sugar, exported during the same period was as follows :—

——	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Vanilla - -	221,340	264,980	243,360	169,996	339,297
Aloe fibre - -	31,150	72,160	79,290	93,446	129,975
Cocoa-nut oil - -	259,990	170,820	323,500	326,916	206,455
Rum - - -	462,920	510,990	500,890	442,409	384,453

XX.—*Observatory.*

1. The self-recording barograph and magnetographs were in constant operation, and the usual eye-observations were made and recorded.

2. All the meteorological and a portion of the magnetical observations have been reduced.

3. Rainfall observations from 37 stations, and temperature observations from four stations, in the rural districts, were tabulated, and the monthly means computed.

4. International meteorological observations were taken daily at 4.33 p.m.

5. Daily observations of the barometer, thermometer, winds, and weather were received from Rodrigues.

6. Fifteen thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine days' observations taken on board ships were tabulated, the dates and localities of gales in the Indian Ocean approximately determined, and the paths of the cyclones of February and March traced.

7. Thirty storm warnings were issued.

8. Sun spots were observed on 98 days, and 77 photographs of them taken.

9. Observations for time were taken daily, when the weather permitted.

10. The time-ball was dropped three times a week.

XXI.—*Royal Botanical Gardens.*

The number of visitors to the Gardens at Pamplemousses fell from 91,508 in 1878 to 81,703 in 1879. The number of plants propagated and sent out in 1879 amounted to 375,100 as against 130,387 in 1878. During 1879, 392 plants of different species and 257 lbs. of useful seeds were received from abroad.

Additional space for a library, herbarium, and offices has been made available by the addition to the Gardens of the Mon Plaisir buildings.

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XXII.—*Dependencies.*

(*a.*) *Seychelles.*

The Seychelles Blue Book for 1879, and the report thereon of the Chief Civil Commissioner, are transmitted herewith.

(*b.*) *Rodrigues.*

The report of the Police Magistrate of Rodrigues for the year 1879 is also transmitted.

(*c.*) *Minor Dependencies.*

The following Islands were visited during 1879 by the Magistrate appointed under Ordinance No 41 of 1875:—

St. Brandon.
Solomon.
Eagle.
Agalega.

The Magistrate dealt during his visit with all pending cases and complaints between master and servants, and generally carried out the laws with the administration of which he is entrusted. His reports were laid before the Council of Government.

(Signed) G. F. BOWEN,
Governor.

Port Louis, Sept. 27, 1880.

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REPORT on BLUE BOOK RETURNS for 1879.

Chief Civil Commissioner's Office,
May 17, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following remarks on the Blue Book Returns of the Seychelles for the year 1879.

2. The general condition and prospects of these Islands have been so fully described in the Blue Book Reports for 1877 and 1878 that there remains but little general information to add. I shall therefore confine myself on this occasion to a few comments on the statistical returns and on the public institutions.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The total revenue receipts for 1879 amounted to Rs. 145,377, which is less by Rs. 7,966 than the corresponding amount for the previous year, as given in Mr. Salmon's annual report. This decrease is due chiefly to reduced receipts from rum permits (excise duty), which item yielded Rs. 6,111 less in 1879 than in 1878. It appears that of late years the consumption of imported spirits has increased, while that of home-made rum has decreased. But although the duty on imported spirits is somewhat higher than the excise on home-made rum, there has not been a sufficient increase in the customs duties to compensate for the loss on the excise. It is shown by the following statement that while during the last three years, the customs duties have increased the excise has decreased in a more rapid proportion.

	1877.	1878.	1879.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Customs - - - -	65,814	68,456	70,867
Excise - - - -	20,851	17,022	10,911
Total - -	86,665	85,478	81,778

4. It is satisfactory to observe that the yield of the local rate ingspecies of income tax) maintained during 1879 its tendency to (a crease. The proceeds of this tax during the last three years have been as follows:—

	Rs.
1877 - - - -	20,581
1878 - - - -	20,780
1879 - - - -	21,863

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5. The total expenditure, as shown by the returns, was Rs. 147,436, which is Rs. 2,059 in excess of the actual revenue received. In addition to the above ascertained amount of expenditure, further expenditure which cannot be estimated at less than Rs. 10,000 has been incurred by the Mauritius Government on account of the Seychelles for the service of the year 1879. This amount has not been paid or brought to account; the Mauritius account current for the last quarter of 1879 not having been yet rendered. Moreover liabilities to the amount of Rs. 11,578, due on account of the year 1879 and previous years, were left outstanding at the end of that year. These liabilities have been discharged since the beginning of the present year.

6. I have been unable for want of complete information to prepare an exact statement of the assets and liabilities of the dependency at the close of 1879; but their respective amounts may be given approximatively at Rs. 16,958 and Rs. 21,578.

7. It will be gathered from the above remarks that the financial condition of the Dependency at the close of 1879 was not entirely satisfactory. But I am of opinion that this state of things may be fairly attributed to exceptional and temporary causes. I believe the revenue to be amply sufficient to cover all ordinary expenditure. Provided that care and economy are exercised, I feel sure that the finances will soon recover their accustomed satisfactory and sound condition.

Exports and Imports.

8. The following statement shows the value of the imports and exports (not including specie) for the last three years:—

Imports.

	Rs.
1877 - - - -	433,528
1878 - - - -	555,574
1879 - - -	379,846

Exports.

	Rs.
1877 - - - -	438,206
1878 - - - -	490,321
1879 - - - -	343,375

9. It will be observed that there is a considerable decrease in the value both of the imports and exports of 1879 as compared with those of the two previous years.

10. The trade with Mauritius shows proportionately a greater decline than that with any other country. Rice is the article of importation in which there was the largest falling off.

11. The decrease shown in the value of the exports may be attributed to three chief causes:—(1) to the discontinuance, by

reason of the closing of a fibre factory (which has been in operation several years), of the manufacture and export of cocoa-nut fibre, an article which was valued among the previous year's exports at Rs. 80,019; (2) to a decrease in the yield of cocoa-nut oil, which is ascribed to the spread of a disease which has for some time past affected the cocoa-nut trees, and for which no satisfactory remedy appears yet to have been found; and (3) to a reduced valuation of the cocoa-nut oil shown to have been exported.

12. The following statement shows the quantity and value of cocoa-nut oil exported during the six years from 1874 to 1879.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Gallons.	Rs.
1874	242,350	259,738
1875	217,350	234,473
1876	284,962	307,768
1877	270,792	365,572 *
1878	291,090	356,920 *
1879	266,577	288,770

* In 1877 and 1878 a higher valuation was given than in other years.

13. The value of the produce of the cocoa-nut tree, in the forms of oil, nuts, and fibre, has hitherto represented about six-sevenths, of the total value of the exports The above statement is therefore a fairly accurate test of the agricultural and commercial position of these Islands. The figures indicate progress, but not rapid progress. The annual average exportation of oil during the triennial period ending in 1879 was 276,153 gallons, against an average of 248,221 gallons during the previous three years.

14. It is satisfactory to observe that the cultivation of fruit, of cocoa, and vanilla is extending, and that some efforts are being made to revive the production of cloves.

Public Works and Buildings.

15. With the exception of a large associated ward in the gaol, the construction of which was begun but discontinued pending the consideration of a comprehensive plan of improvement of the prison buildings, no public work of importance was undertaken during the past year. The main coast road was extended about 65 yards towards the south and about 595 yards towards the north-east. A few small bridges were mended and strengthened, and the ordinary repairs of the roads were carried out.

16. There are about 24 miles of public road opened in the Island of Mahé. Of this length, portions only, about eight miles

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in all, are practicable for wheeled vehicles. By reason of the rocky and mountainous nature of the country, and the heavy rains, the making and maintenance of roads are expensive and difficult. The average cost of those portions of road constructed during 1879 was Rs. 10·3 per linear yard; the width of the road being 20 feet. This amount does not include the cost of metalling.

17. Considerable improvement has been made of late in the streets of the town of Victoria. Five years ago many of the so-called streets were merely rough paths much obstructed by large rocks. They are now almost without exception passable by carts, and some of them are well laid out and well drained.

18. Of the public offices, the Court House and Police Station are dilapidated wooden buildings, inconvenient and deficient in accommodation. The Revenue Office is well situated and fairly well adapted to its purpose. The Public Hospital is a creditable institution, well organized, and provided with the necessary fittings and appliances. It is solidly built and well ventilated.

Population and Vital Statistics.

19. Taking the census of 1876 as a basis, the population on the 31st December 1879 may be estimated at 13,558.

20. The numbers of births and deaths registered were respectively 478 and 264. The natural increase of the population for the year was therefore 214.

21. The male births numbered 250; the female births 228. Of these 263 were legitimate and 215 illegitimate.

22. The birth-rate (still-births being excluded from the calculation) was 35·82 per thousand, a rate in excess of that of 1878, but somewhat lower than that of 1877 and 1876.

23. The death rate (still-births not being included) was 19·78 per thousand, a rate considerably below that of 1878, which reached 25·02 per thousand, but slightly in excess of that of 1877, which was as low as 18·4 per thousand. The rate of mortality of young children is very high.

24. The total number of still-births registered during the year was 33.

25. The number of marriages celebrated was 129; in 1878 the number was 83; and in 1877, 147.

Crime.

26. The returns relating to crime show a decrease in the number of trials and convictions before the District Court as compared with the same returns for 1878. In 1879 the number of persons charged before the Court was 999 against 1,226 in the previous year, and there were 762 convictions against 903.

67. All crimes and offences, except murder, are tried without distinction before the District Court. There is no trial by jury, and no periodical assizes are held. In the returns, however, offences are classed under two principal heads, viz. crimes and minor offences.

28. In 1879 204 persons were charged with crimes, of whom 134 were convicted. The corresponding numbers in 1878 were 279 and 173.

29. The number of persons charged with minor offences in 1879 was 795, against 946 in 1878. The number of convictions was 628 against 734.

30. Under the head of crimes, serious offences such as would ordinarily be considered indictable offences were comparatively few. There were 11 persons charged with serious offences against the person, of whom 6 were convicted. There were 8 charges of serious offences against property, and 3 convictions.

31. It must be admitted that the criminal statistics indicate an amount of crime that bears an unsatisfactorily undue proportion to the population.

Gaol.

32. The gaol returns show that 401 persons were committed during the year 1879; in 1878 the number committed was 456.

33. Of the 401 committals during 1879 200 were for non-payment of fines and costs, and 201 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

34. The average daily number of prisoners was 53, against 57 in 1878. There were two deaths among the prisoners in 1879 and 33 admissions to hospital.

35. The cost of the maintenance of the prison, (including the salaries of the officers) was Rs. 6,490; and the average cost of each prisoner's maintenance was Rs. 122.

36. I have reported specially on the very defective state of the gaol buildings, and on the inefficient discipline that appears to have been maintained. Efforts have been made to improve the discipline, and to render imprisonment more deterrent than it has been. But, until more suitable premises are constructed, it will be impossible to establish a proper system of separation and classification, or to make penal labour within the walls of the goal, a portion of hard labour punishment.

37. I annex a tabular statement compiled from the returns of the years 1877, 1878, and 1879, giving in a comparative form the most important statistics of each of those years.

I have, &c.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary,
Mauritius.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK,
Chief Civil Commissioner.

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Comparative Statistical Statement for the years 1877, 1878, *and* 1879.

Year.	Actual Revenue Receipts.	Actual Expenditure.	Value of Imports exclusive of specie.	Value of Exports exclusive of specie.	Customs Duty.	Local Rate Income Tax.	Cocoa-nut oil exported.	Land under cultivation (Estimate).	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Death-rate per 1,000.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Gallons.	Acres.		
1877 -	156,257	143,817	483,528	438,206	65,814	20,581	270,792	(no return)	38·00	18·40
1878 -	153,343	148,733	555,574	490,321	68,456	20,780	291,090	24,512	32·55	25·02
1879 -	145,377	147,436	379,846	343,375	70,867	21,863	266,577	24,604	35·82	19·78

N.B.—The amounts of revenue and expenditure for 1877 and 1878 are taken from Mr. Salomon's Blue Book Reports for those years. The estimated value of prison labour is deducted in each case. The remaining figures for 1877 and 1878 are also taken from the same Blue Book Reports

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RODRIGUES.

Police Magistracy, Rodrigues,
May 29, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith my report on the Island of Rodrigues for the year 1879.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. O'HALLORAN,
Police Magistrate.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on RODRIGUES ISLAND (a Dependency of Mauritius) for 1879.

I.—*Taxation.*

By Proclamation No. 40 of 1879, Ordinance No. 6 of 1878 (entitled "An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the laws on Licenses") was extended to Rodrigues. In consequence of this, fishermen now pay the taxes on fishing of all kinds, as laid down in Schedule A. of that Ordinance. Hitherto there had been no duty levied on that indusry in this Island.

By authority of His Excellency the Governor a charge was made, for the first time, during the past year on all forest produce required by the inhabitants for the building of their huts, cattle and goat pens, boats, &c.

The scale is as follows:

	Rs.
1. Latanier leaves, per cent. - -	0·50
2. „ cord, per kilo - -	0·03
3. Vacoas posts, per foot - -	0·02
4. Gundine do. „ - -	0·02
5. Knees for boats, each - -	0·25
6. Stems „ „ - -	2·00
7. Oar floats, per foot - - -	0·02
8. Picquets var., per cent - -	0·50
9. „ acacia, per cent. - -	0·25
10. Aloes, per cent. - - -	1·00

II.—*Receipts and Expenditure.*

Receipts for the past two years :—

No.	Heads of Receipts.	1878.		1879.	
		Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1	Land sales and forest produce -	40	50	175	99
2	Customs - - - -	37	14	—	
3	Land rent - - - -	1,076	50	1,067	—
4	Pasturage - - - -	1,463	—	1,441	75
5	Registration dues - -	25	50	12	50
6	Licenses - - - -	1,300	—	1,490	—
7	Stamps - - - -	141	85	127	84
8	Taxes (horses and dogs - -	510	—	547	—
9	Postage - - - -	206	76	149	60
10	Fines and forfeitures - - -	231	50	436	—
11	Fees of court - - - -	270	90	213	52
12	Fees of office - - - -	67	—	68	—
13	Sale of Government property -	269	54	3,862	49
14	School fees - - - -	146	03	92	—
15	Miscellaneous - - - -	58	29	118	97
	Total for 1878 and 1879 -	5,844	51	9,802	66

This table shows an increase in the receipts for 1879 of Rs. 3,958 14 over 1878, owing to sale of 300 bags of Government rice. Rate of revenue per head of population in 1879 was Rs. 6 54 against Rs. 4 in 1878.

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Expenditure for the past two years:—

No.	Heads of Expenditure.	1878.	1879.
	Establishments fixed and provisional.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1	Magistrate and Postmaster - -	4,120 —	3,453 20
2	R. C. Priest - - - -	1,333 28	1,027 73
3	School's Department - - -	2,493 94	2,591 88
	Services exclusive.		
4	Police, forests and gaols - -	5,413 —	5,593 78
5	Rent for school master and mistress -	360 —	360 —
6	Increments to do. -	125 —	100 01
7	Taxation, Crown witnesses - -	3 81	7 50
8	Commission on postage labels -	—	9 47
	Miscellaneous.		
9	Meteorological observations - -	365 —	212 50
10	Works and buildings - - -	5 75	2,766 10
11	Repairs to boats &c., &c. - -	14 29	18 —
12	Transport - - - -	—	29 50
13	Burial of paupers - - -	—	1 —
14	Police deposit, account of road fund -	454 82	—
15	Land surveys - - - -	100 —	—
16	Purchase of rice - - -	615 —	—
17	Passage of prisoners to Mauritius -	60 —	—
	Total for 1878 & 1879. -	15,463 89	16,170 67

Increase in expenditure in 1879 over 1878 was Rs. 706 78.

Rate of expenditure per head of population in 1879 was Rs. 10 79 against Rs. 10 59 in 1878.

By the above tables it will be perceived that the expenditure in 1879 was Rs. 6,368 01 in excess of the receipts, but it must be remembered that customs duty, paid in Mauritius on all goods imported into this Island, is not included; neither does the rent for land paid in Mauritius by Messrs. Wilson & Co. and the Honorable Henry Pitot figure above.

NOTE.—The customs duty amounted to Rs. 8,000 in 1878, and to Rs. 7,518 64 in 1879. The amount paid for lease of land was Rs. 2,670 in 1878 and Rs. 2,670 in 1879.

III.—*Criminal Justice.*

The number of offences coming to notice for which persons were prosecuted was 56 in 1879, being a decrease of 4 on 1878.

The cases for 1879 are classified as follows:—

Before what Court.	Number of persons		
	Charged.	Convicted.	Acquitted or otherwise.
Police Court - -	55	54	1 to assizes.
Stipendiary Court -	1	1	—

Table of Offences for which Persons were brought before the Court in 1879.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Cases.
Larceny	2
Possession of stolen property	3
Wounds and blows	1
Rape	1
Perjury	1
Fictitious writing	1
Selling unwholesome food	1
Destroying trees on Crown lands	1
Disturbance	3
Sanitary offences	2
Drunkenness	13
Trespass	14
Allowing animals to stray	5
Desertion	1

Nationality of Offenders.

Europeans	1
Creoles	38
Indians	6
Africans	11
	56

IV.—*Education.*

Table showing number of pupils attending the Government School for the past two years.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1878	48	35	72
1879	47	34	72

In September 1879 an examination of the scholars attending the Government School was made by the Magistrate (Mr. H. E. Desmarais) when 40 pupils were present. The result of this examination was as follows:

Class 1.—12 *Pupils.*

Six passed in English reading.
Two „ French „
One „ English orthography.
None „ French do.
Three „ English grammar.
None „ French do.
One „ Geography.
Five „ Arithmetic.

Class No. 2.—10 *Pupils.*

Three passed in English reading.
Six „ French „
None „ English orthography.
„ „ French do.
Three „ Arithmetic.

Class No 3.—1*st Division.*—8 *Pupils.*

Two passed in English spelling.
Two „ French „
Eight „ Writing.

Class No. 3.—2*nd Division.*—10 *Pupils.*

All passed in alphabet.

The cost of the school for 1879 has been as follows:

	Rs.	c.
Salaries of Teachers - -	2,591	88
House rent for do. - -	360	00
Total -	2,951	88
Less school fees received -	92	00
Total cost of school - -	2,859	88

Cost to Government of each pupil - - - Rs. 84 11.

The staff consists of one schoolmaster and one schoolmistress. The school house is the property of Government.

V.—*Post Office.*

The revenue collected at Rodrigues on account of this Department amounted to Rs. 149 60, being as follows: Unpaid letters Rs. 6 84; sale of postage labels Rs. 117 59; commission on Money Orders Rs. 25 17.

In 1878 the amount received was Rs. 206 76, being a decrease in 1879 of Rs. 57 16.

Money orders were drawn on Mauritius to the value of Rs. 7,013 08 against Rs. 10,420 85 in 1878, or a decrease in 1879 of Rs. 3,407 77.

Money orders drawn on Rodrigues in 1879 came to Rs. 260 75. In 1878 it was Rs. 1,375 78. Decrease in 1879 Rs. 1,135 03.

Letters and newspapers despatched and received during past twoyears stand as follows:—

Year.	Received.		Despatched.	
	Letters.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Newspapers.
1878	759	452	793	Nil
1879	644	579	852	4

115 letters less and 127 newspapers more were received in 1879 than in 1878. There were 59 letters and 4 newspapers despatched in 1879 in excess of 1878.

VI.—*Public Works.*

The only works undertaken in 1879 were the New Court House and the conversion of the old one into a prison and police station. I am unable to give the cost of this as only a portion of it was paid in this Island.

NOTE.—The full cost is Rs. 4,804 97.

The Government Residence was painted inside and out, and the outbuildings, &c. recovered and repaired at a cost of Rs. 195 75.

The roof of the Magistrate's dining pavilion was also covered with shingles at a cost of Rs. 72 50.

Repairs to boats, sails, &c. came to Rs. 18 00.

VII.—*Population.*

The population of this dependency on 31st December 1879 was 1,498 against 1,459 in 1878. The classification of the population for 1879 is as follows:

Natives of Mauritius and Rodrigues	1,377
„ „ Africa and Madagascar	90
„ „ India	17
„ „ Europe	14

Year.	General Population.			Indian Population.			Total.		Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
1878	827	606	1,433	23	3	26	850	609	1,459
1879	844	637	1,481	14	3	17	858	640	1,498

The occupations, of the inhabitants and the numbers at each occupation are as follows:—

Agriculturists	947
Traders	5
Artizans	15
Government servants	13
Fishermen	348
Unemployed	200

The 200 unemployed comprise women, children, and old men

RODRIGUES.

Year.	Births.			Deaths.			Arrivals.			Departures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1878	44	37	81	12	13	25	42	13	55	64	39	103
1879	40	36	76	9	9	18	58	15	73	72	20	92

There were 5 marriages and 1 still-birth in 1879, against 2 marriages and 4 still-births in 1878.

VIII.—*Legislation.*

No special Ordinances were enacted by the Government of Mauritius for this Dependency during the past year; but Ordinance No. 6 of 1878 (consolidating the laws on licenses) was extended to Rodrigues.

IX.—*Prisons.*

For a long time this Dependency was without any prison, the Government boat shed being used as such. Towards the end of 1879 a part of the old court house was converted into one.

41 persons were committed during 1879:

For non-payment of fine and costs	- 14
„ safe custody till trial -	- 6
„ various terms of imprisonment	- 21

There is no regular prison staff.

The serjeant-major of police is *ex-officio* the gaoler; and police constables supervise prisoners at work and guard the prison at night. No offences were committed by the prisoners while under detention; and there were no escapes during the year. The only cost of this department is that of the rations, and no value can be assigned to the work, which is simply sweeping and cleaning Government premises and the village.

X.—*Establishment.*

The cost of the Rodrigues Establishment for the past two years is shown by the following statement:—

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances.	Total.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1878	13,125 22	720 00	13,845 22
1879	12,406 60	720 00	13,126 60

XI.—*Trade.*

The imports and exports for past two years stand thus :—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1878	54,110	125,276 00
1879	90,969 00	89,130 00

This shows an increase in imports for 1879 of Rs. 36,859 00. This may be accounted for to some extent by the fact that owing to the famine on this Island towards the end of 1878 and commencement of 1879, rice to the value of Rs. 1,280 00 in excess of 1878 was sent here from Mauritius. Exports have a decrease in 1879 of Rs. 36,146 00. This I consid r is due to the following causes : 1st., the small number of cattle exported (owing to the epidemic amongst those animals in Mauritius), viz., 225 head against 1,482 in 1878 ; and, 2ndly, in consequence of drought and failure of crops less grain left Rodrigues than in the previous year.

Rates of exports and imports per head of population in last two years :—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1878	37 08	85 06
1879	60 72	59 49

XII.—*Meteorological Observations.*

Daily observations were made during the year of the barometer, thermometer, winds and weather, which were duly forwarded to the Director of the Observatory at Mauritius.

These observations were taken by the district sergeant-major of police.

XIII.—*General Remarks.*

To make Rodrigues, which is a beautiful and fertile Island, prosperous and profitable to Mauritius, good roads must be opened up over the Island, and an industrious agricultural class be induced to come and settle here. This would of course cause some considerable outlay, and the cession of a certain quantity of Crown

RODRIGUES. lands, but the results in the course of eight or ten years would, if a fair amount of rain visited the Island, fully justify the expenditure.

If Rodrigues was made to a small extent a penal settlement and from 60 to 100 long sentenced prisoners constantly kept here, good roads available for the passage of vehicles would soon be made, and a large portion of the town of Port Mathurin, which is at present a swamp at high tide, could be reclaimed by means of these men, and not only remove a cause of insalubrity but place at disposal of Government some valuable plots of ground. The only expense incurred would be for passages to this Island from Mauritius, cost of guarding and feeding being the same here as there.

The present agriculturists of Rodrigues are too idle ever to make much use of the soil, besides which they have not the necessary implements or knowledge to make good farmers. If small farms were allotted to respectable persons, possessing a capital of about Rs. 1,000, and who would be willing to settle here, free grants might be made to them after 5 years of the land they occupy, provided three-quarters were under cultivation and that suitable houses and out-houses were erected thereon. This would I think prove an inducement to a class much required here to come and settle in this Dependency. Wheat and oats would I think thrive and with a properly conducted system of farming the markets of Mauritius might be supplied with a great portion of the wheat and oats now obtained elsewhere. Under present circumstances all that Rodrigues can do is to jog along without advancing, but with the Island opened up by means of good roads and with an increase of population of a proper sort would come increased revenue, increased imports and exports and consequently prosperity.

Police Magistracy, Rodrigues,
29th May 1880.

J. C. O'HALLORAN,
Police Magistrate.

SINGAPORE.

No. 14.

Governor Sir F. A. WELD, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Singapore,
October 21, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship the following report upon the Blue Book of the Straits Settlements for the year 1879. I regret that it should be sent so late, but in a Colony like this, divided into Settlements at a distance from each other, it is a matter of difficulty to get together the various returns required.

Revenue.

2. The receipts for the year 1879, which amounted to $1,822,651, as compared with those of 1878, show an increase of $98,185. Revenue.

3. This is mainly to be attributed to the following items:

	$
Excise	30,209
Collection of land rents	11,827
Port and harbour dues	6,413
Reimbursements	12,870
Interest	44,731
Unclaimed court deposits	17,505

4. I have, however, to notice that there were only land sales to the amount of $28,853, showing a decrease against 1878 of $12,057. There was a falling off in fines and fees of court of $4,400 and in commercial and judicial stamps of $16,800

Expenditure.

5. The expenditure during the year amounted to $1,887,009, being $64,358 in excess of the revenue. Expenditure.

6. Under the head of establishments there was an increase of $25,783.

	$
Police	15,435
Marine department	17,732
Conveyance of mails	13,519
Miscellaneous services	22,067
Works and buildings	197,677

SINGAPORE.

7. It is unnecessary for me to enter into the causes of increase or decrease in the items which I have brought to your Lordship's notice, as they are fully explained in the marginal remarks appended to the returns.

But, as regards the heavy expenditure incurred during the year, I would wish to make some explanation as the apparent deficit cannot fail to strike attention.

8. The most important item by which the deficit was created was the result of closing the waterworks' accounts, in accordance with the final decision of the Secretary of State. By that decision a sum of $80,184, which stood as an asset in the accounts of the Colony to be recovered from the municipal commissioners of Singapore, was written off and necessarily therefore was brought under the head of the expenditure of the Colony. Again, the erection of the new prison on Pearl's Hill was pushed on under the instructions of the Secretary of State and $33,300 was spent in excess of the estimates. Of the other items, one which should be noticed was $3,198 for the commencement of the Telok Ayer Bay reclamation scheme which was entered upon after the estimates had been prepared; and another $7,856, an excess vote for the brick manufactory, so as to double the plant, &c., but which expenditure is very nearly all recovered from the sale of bricks; and another $13,308 for the formation of roads at Kampong, Malacca, after the large sale of land in that district. There was further the very special expenditure amounting in all to $9,856 on account of the Pangkor murder case.

Military Expenditure.

Military expenditure.

9. The military contribution paid to the Imperial Government by the Colony amounted for the year to $235,976. Besides this a sum of $22,501 was spent on the maintenance of military posts and works.

Public Works.

Public works.

10. The year has been a very busy one for the Public Works Department as many important works in respect of buildings and roads have been undertaken; in addition to the larger works referred to in the concluding portion of paragraph 8, the department has been engaged on the extension of the public offices in Singapore, and the completion of the prison at Penang.

Legislation.

Legislation.

11. Fifteen Ordinances were passed by the Colonial Legislature during the Session of 1879, and I have to notice the following important enactments:—Ordinance No. I. regulates, in accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Government the savings bank which had already been in existence at Singapore for some three years; it constitutes it a Government Savings

Bank subject to the control of Government and under the supervision of the Colonial Treasurer. During 1879 there were 226 depositors who used the bank.

12. No. V., the Hackney Carriage Ordinance, was introduced to make provision for the regulation of the numerous omnibuses and stage coaches which had come to be used during the last few years. It further contains a better and more systematic arrangement of several subjects in relation to hackney carriages.

13. No. VI., an Ordinance to amend Ordinance IV. of 1870, creates a board of licensing justices and transfers to them the powers, hitherto held by the licensing officer.

14. No. VIII., introduces desirable changes into the law with respect to the appointment and conduct of pilots and matters relating to their duties.

15. No. IX., fixes certain days by law for public and bank holidays.

16. No. X., gives the Colony what has long been felt a necessity, viz., a new Postal Ordinance. It mainly follows the Hong Kong Ordinance of 1876, and a recent Ceylon Ordinance, at the same time retaining certain of the provisions of the old Indian Act.

17. No. XII. was rendered necessary by the Courts Ordinance of 1878, which reconstituted Courts of Appeal. These Courts were for the first time established in 1873, but the new constitution of the Supreme Court necessitated the introduction of a new Appeals Ordinance.

18. It having been represented to Government that, owing to a decision of the Supreme Court, a revision of the laws relating to gambling was necessary, the present measure (No. XIII.) was introduced. It gives a wider definition of "public gambling" and of "common gaming houses."

19. No. XV., effects a change in the constitution of the Colony by which the duties heretofore performed by the Lieutenant Governors of Penang and Malacca will be performed by officers to be called Resident Councillors, in accordance with the Royal Instructions. The change has already been effected at Malacca, but will not take place at Penang till the occurrence of a vacancy.

Population.

Population.

20. The total population when the last census of the Colony was taken in 1871 was estimated at 308,907. The year 1881 has been fixed for taking the regular census, so as to be in accord with the date at which it is now taken at home, and in every other Colony, and it is anticipated that the returns will show a very great increase in the population of the Colony, and especially of Singapore.

Education.

Education.

21. The total number of pupils in all the schools has, on comparison with last year (1878), increased from 3,918 to 4,229, while the per-centage of attendances has at the same time risen from 76 to 80.

SINGAPORE.

22. In English schools the number presented has increased from 1,400 to 1,675, but the per-centage of passes was only 66 as against 71 last year. In Malay schools the number presented has risen from 1,060 to 1,141, while the per-centage of passes decreased to 67 from 72. This falling off in the per-centage of passes in English schools is due to the alterations in the standards which make the tests more difficult than before.

23. The most important changes effected in respect of education during the year were—

(1.) The revision of the Code of Rules for grants-in-aid to English schools, and the introduction of the new rules at the annual inspection.

(2.) The establishment in Singapore of another English branch school for Malays.

(3.) The erection of three new Malay schools in the Colony.

The system adopted by the revised Code is the substitution of grants by results only, in lieu of grants partly fixed and partly by results.

Imports and Exports.

Trade.

24. The grand total value of imports in 1879 was $79,814,833 (14,965,281*l.*), showing an increase of $8,899,216 over the previous year.

25. The value of exports to all countries amounted to $74,625,270 (13,992,238*l.*), being $9,577,167 in excess of 1878.

The total value of imports from the United Kingdom was $16,118,063 (3,022,136*l.*) and of exports to the United Kingdom was $10,635,636 (1,994,181*l.*). These statistics show an appreciable increase in the value of trade which I am glad to be able to bring to your Lordship's notice.*

Shipping.

Shipping.

26. The following is a return of all vessels that arrived at and departed from the ports of the three Settlements during the years 1878 and 1879.

Arrivals.

	European Vessels.			Native Craft.		
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crew.
In 1878 -	4,457	2,652,384	192,333	5,991	170,086	50,146
In 1879 -	4,304	2,577,726	186,419	7,575	208,117	56,686

* *Note.*–The rate of exchange at which the above amounts are calculated is 3*s.* 9*d.* to the dollar.

Departures.

	European Vessels.			Native Craft.		
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crew.
In 1878 -	4,529	2,574,474	176,488	7,689	208,163	60,502
In 1879 -	4,584	2,352,572	168,470	7,813	213,962	62,864

Lighthouses.

Lighthouses. 27. The lighthouses have been in good working order and no complaints have been made by the masters of vessels. The Straits light dues form a fund for the upkeep of lighthouses, and out of the surplus receipts provision is made for the better lighting of the Straits. Much is now being done, as your Lordship is aware in this latter direction.

Health.

Health. 28. The general health of the several Settlements has been good, no epidemic of any kind having occurred (except in the Singapore Gaol) during the period under review. The efficiency of the hospitals and asylums, &c., has been duly maintained and there has been a marked improvement on nearly every side. The pauper hospitals of the colony have been availed of to a very large extent in camparison with former years, and it is very satisfactory to observe the liberality with which the wealthier Chinese have come forward to relieve their suffering countrymen.

29. I regret to have to report that the state of health in the criminal prison at Singapore during the past year has been most unfavourable. An epidemic of the disease called beri beri broke out in the prison and proved fatal in many cases. The causes of this outbreak have been most thoroughly inquired into, but medical authorities so widely differ, and so little is known of the disease, that I hesitate to give an opinion as to its origin. I am happy to report, however, that the measures taken have proved so far successful that the epidemic is now at an end.

30. There were 341 cases of beri beri in all, or nearly one half of the total number of cases treated during the year. The deaths from this cause alone were 66, or more than one half the total number of deaths from all causes.

Gaols.

Gaols. 31. The discipline observed and the work done by the prisoners have been good. No escapes occurred amongst the long sentenced prisoners. Among the short sentenced prisoners there was one escape in Singapore and one in Penang. The prisoner in the latter case was recaptured.

SINGAPORE.

32. In Singapore there was one case of assault by a Chinese prisoner on an European warder: the prisoner had undergone a sentence of seven years for robbery, was undergoing one of four years for attempt to murder, and received one of seven years for the case under notice. There was one case of suicide by a Chinese prisoner, who was undergoing a life sentence for gang robbery and murder, and who succeeded in hanging himself.

33. In Penang one case of murder occurred within the gaol. A Chinese prisoner sentenced to two months for theft killed a native warder with a hatchet. The prisoner was sentenced to death and executed.

34. In Malacca one prisoner, a Chinaman, who had been three times convicted, committed suicide by hanging himself.

Police and Crime.

Police and crime.

35. During 1879 a commission was appointed to inquire into the working of the police force, and the very exhaustive report of the commissioners has already engaged your Lordship's attention. Much is required to place the police force of these Settlements on an efficient footing, but with more European supervision and better pay I shall hope to see many important improvements effected.

36. The number of cases which came under the cognizance of the police in Singapore and Malacca show an increase on the previous year, but there was a decrease in Singapore and Penang in the number of persons dealt with by the police magistrates. The increase in Malacca under this latter head was owing to a large number of cases being of a trivial nature.

37. The number of criminal cases tried by the magistrates of police in the three Settlements amounted to 21,164, being less than those in 1878 by 1,587. The number of persons convicted was 17,232, 410 cases were taken before the Superior Court at the several criminal assizes, being 83 in excess of the previous year.

38. This latter increase is the result in part of the more frequent committal to trial of prisoners against whom more than three previous convictions have been noted.

Chinese Protectorate.

Chinese immigration.

39. Closely connected with the administration of justice is the working of the Chinese Protectorate in this Colony, and I am happy to state that the peace and good order of the Chinese population has with few exceptions been maintained.

40. One disturbance, in which the death of a man was caused, between members of secret societies might have grown into a serious riot but was effectually dealt with by the police. Two of the headmen were banished, a line of action which had its usual good effect, and the actual murderers of the man referred to were brought to justice and punished.

41. The registration of the secret societies has conduced in some measure to the satisfactory state of things now existing, but

there can be little doubt that to the present influence of the chief police officers and Protectors of Chinese is mainly due the good order and immunity from riots which the Colony has for some time enjoyed.

42. The power of the dangerous societies has been greatly weakened, though one or two of them, owing to the want of influence exercised by their headmen, require constant supervision. The Protector of Chinese and the Inspector General of Police are of opinion that the Governor should have power to suspend or cancel the registration of any society, in order that the Executive might be enabled to have a better check on such as are dangerous to the public peace, or even (if found advisable) to suppress the whole of them in this Colony.

43. I shall, after I have gained more local experience, be in a position to advise your Lordship as to the necessity of introducing any fresh legislation dealing with this subject.

44. During 1879 the number of members on the register books of the secret societies amounted to 23,588, as against 17,906 in the previous year, while the number of actual subscribers was 15,888, as against 13,306 in 1878. In Penang the registered members amounted to 39,627.

45. During the year 56,513 Chinese arrived in the Colony; of whom 19,225 came from Hong Kong, 19,986 from Swatow, 11,415 from Amoy, and 3,442 from Hainan. Besides these there were 2,962 Chinese women. As regards the former 4,527 were received into licensed depôts as their passages had not been paid.

46. The refuge for kidnapped women in Singapore has continued to be of much service, and will prove even more useful when the landing depôts, which it is proposed to establish under the new Chinese Immigration Ordinance, are completed.

Indian Immigration.

Indian immigration.

47. The report of the late Protector of Indian Immigrants shows that 853 natives of India arrived in Penang under the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance during 1879, but this gives no idea of the number of Coolies working on estates in the Colony, as some 5,000 natives of India, calling themselves free Coolies, arrived in the Settlement in 1879, principally from the French port of Karikal.

This subject is engaging the attention of Government, and it is proposed this year to amend the Indian Immigration Ordinance of 1876 by a more comprehensive measure.

Postal.

Postal.

48. An increase is observable in the number of letters, newspapers, books, and parcels received and despatched during 1879, as compared with 1878. In 1878 those received were 790,451. In 1879 they amounted to 804,136, Those despatched in the previous year were 559,099, while those in 1879 numbered 577,201.

49. The revenue of the Department reaches the sum of $70,074, but as the accounts from England and elsewhere under the postal union have not been received, it is impossible to report

SINGAPORE.

the amount of the total expenditure. There is good reason to believe that the revenue only slightly exceeded the expenditure. The local money order business, and that with China, show a marked increase; while that with Great Britain was not quite so large as in the previous year. A branch office for the sale of judicial and revenue stamps was opened in the General Post Office during 1879.

Registration.

Registration.

50. The registration returns cannot be regarded as trustworthy as there can be no doubt that the population has very largely increased since 1871, and the natives fail to comply with the requirements of the law. The total number of births registered in 1879 was 3,144, being 798 more than those registered in 1878. The proportion to the supposed population was 10·21 per 1,000.

The deaths registered in the year under review amounted to 6,597, or very nearly the same as in 1878. The proportion to the population as given in the last census was 21·42 per thousand.

Literary Institutions.

Literary institutions.

51. The Raffles library and museum has come by the operation of Ordinance 7 of 1878 more under the control of Government. It is now managed by a committee of five, appointed by the Governor, of whom the Colonial Secretary is chairman.

52. A valuable addition was made in the year to the library by the purchase by Government of a collection of philological works belonging to the late Mr. J. R. Logan, and numbering 1,250 volumes. The number of subscribers to the library was 206, of readers 5,634, and of works applied for 18,035. There are 5,832 works in the library. The museum was visited in 1879 by 54,431 persons.

Penang and Malacca.

Penang and Malacca.

53. I enclose copies of the annual usual reports on the Settlements of Penang and Malacca.

54. In conclusion it gives me much pleasure to refer to the results which have accrued from the administration of Malacca during the year, more especially in connexion with the Land Department, and this I attribute to the very energetic manner in which the Acting Lieutenant-Governor (Major Squirl) during his term of office conducted the affairs of the Settlement.

55. By compelling encroachers on Crown lands to take out leases, by enforcing the payment of arrears of rent for the time they had been in occupation, and by the collection of premia and survey fees, the revenue from land for the year reached a sum of $45,690, or nearly $20,000 more than that for 1878.

56. Some part of this amount may, of course, be considered as actual yearly revenue, as the lessees found to be in possession of land will be called upon to pay annual rental, but I must point out that a large sum collected was for arrears of rent, and cannot be therefore counted upon as annual revenue.

57. The energy shown in this and other directions has, however, raised Malacca from the position of being somewhat a drag on the finances of the Colony to a state of real progress which will, I trust, be continuous; and this desirable result has been secured without placing additional burdens on the people.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. A. WELD,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

PENANG.

No. 15.

The LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, Penang, to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office, Penang,
September 11, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Report on the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1879.

2. That portion of the Report which relates to the revenue and expenditure of the Government and the municipality was prepared by Mr. Charles J. Irving, who, up to the commencement of last May, acted as Lieutenant-Governor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON,
Lieutenant-Governor.

REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the SETTLEMENT of PENANG (Colonial and Municipal), for the years 1877, 1878, and 1879.

Colonial Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue and expenditure of the Colonial Government in respect of the Settlement of Penang, for the three years under review, after making proper allowance for certain irregularities in the periods of the Excise farm rents brought to credit on the accounts for the several years, may be stated as follows. The details will be found in the statements A. and B. annexed:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1877 - -	616,392	371,445
1878 - -	645,932	404,948
1879 - -	636,495	430,017
	1,898,819	1,206,410

PENANG.

2. These amounts show an apparent surplus for the three years of nearly $700,000, but, in order to arrive at a proper view of the financial condition of the Settlement, it is necessary to make allowance for a due proportion, to be charged to Penang, of certain items of general expenditure on account of the Colony which are defrayed from the treasury at Singapore, or by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. The amount of the expenditure so to be apportioned may be stated as being somewhat under $450,000 a year, and the proportion chargeable to Penang (following the ratio between the Penang revenue and the total revenue of the Colony) may be stated with sufficient exactness at two fifths of the whole, equal to $180,000 a year. At this rate the charge for the three years would be $540,000, and deducting this amount from the apparent surplus as shown above, there results a true surplus for the three years of about $160,000.*

3. The revenue for 1879 exceeded that for 1877 by $20,103 while it fell short of that for 1878 by $9,437.

4. The falling off shown by the latter comparison is attributable, in the main, to a decline in the stamp revenue of the Supreme Court, which fluctuated as follows :—

	$
1877 - - - -	14,624
1878 - - - -	22,406
1879 - - - -	13,537

The large amount of the revenue in 1878 is due to probate and administration duties having become due on certain exceptionally large estates which were administered during that year.

5. The excess of the revenue for 1879 over that for 1877 is mainly attributable to the reletting of the toddy and bhang farm from 1878 at a rate increased from $9,090 to $16,800; and to increased receipts from the fines and fees of the Police Courts, which rose from $22,613 in 1877 to $30,169 in 1878. In other respects the fluctuations in the receipts, as will be seen by the statement A., were not important.

6. The expenditure for 1879 exceeded that for 1878 by $25,069,

* The estimated surplus for the current year, computed in the same way, is over $170,000. This marked improvement in the financial condition of the Settlement is due to the largely increased rates at which the Excise and pawnbrokers farms for three years—1880, 1881, 1882—were let at the close of 1879. The following figures show the rents of the old and new farms respectively :—

	Old Farm.	New Farm.
	$	$
Opium - - -	257,592	440,640
Spirits - - - -	126,300	178,500
Toddy and bhang - - -	16,800	
Pawnbrokers - - -	17,280	38,112
	417,972	657,252

and that for 1877 by $58,572. A detailed comparison of the expenditure for 1877 and 1879 gives the following results:—

	Expenditure in 1879 in excess of that in 1877.
	$
Salaries - - - -	16,954
Education - - - -	2,429
Medical - - - -	7,123
Police - - - -	2,750
Transport - - - -	3,119
Miscellaneous - - -	4,325
Works and buildings - -	4,531
Roads, streets, and bridges - -	15,068
Special expenses - - -	4,591
	60,890
Deduct amount of decreased expenditure (net) under sundry heads -	2,318
Nett excess on the whole - -	58,572

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

7. The following figures give an abstract of the municipal accounts for the three years under review:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1877 - - - -	128,896	127,918 17,163
1878 - - - -	138,807	140,395
1879 - - - -	169,663	182,666
	437,366	468,142
1877. Amount of expenditure charged to loan account -	17,163	—
1879, Loans from Government -	25,500	—
„ Loan of 2,400*l.* paid off -	—	13,879
	480,029	482,021

8. Up to July 1877, the bulk of the expenditure on account of the George Town waterworks was defrayed from money raised by loan and charged to a separate "loan account," but from that date, when the money to the credit of the account was exhausted, the expenditure has been charged to the general account. The loan from Government in 1879, so far as the amount was not required to pay off a debenture of 2,400*l.* which became due in that year, may be said to have been made necessary

PENANG.

by expenditure on account of the waterworks in 1878 and 1879 beyond the waterworks revenue of these years. At the close of 1879 the Commissioners were indebted for iron piping and other stores required for the waterworks to the extent of 3,000*l.*, but this, it is contemplated, will be paid off out of current revenue in the course of the present year.

9. At the close of the year, the debenture debt amounted to $101,700, bearing interest as follows:—

	$
At five per cent - - -	32,500
At seven per cent - - -	9,200
At eight per cent - - -	60,000
	101,700

10. The high rate of interest payable on the greater portion of the debenture debt constitutes a somewhat heavy burden on the resources of the municipality, and it would afford a sensible relief, and enable the Commissioners to undertake works of importance, which are now unavoidably postponed from want of funds, should the Government be in a position to advance, at five per cent., the amount that would be required to take up the loans at present bearing interest at seven and eight per cent. The annual saving on interest that would result from this would be $1,984; or if such an arrangement were considered preferable, an additional sum of nearly $40,000 might be borrowed at the same annual charge for interest as that which has to be met at present in respect of the existing debt of $101,700.

11. The Commissioners, under the Indian Act XXVII. of 1856, levy throughout the settlement, a rate of 10 per cent. per annum on houses and buildings, and a rate of five per cent. on lands. Taxes are also levied throughout the settlement on horses and vehicles. The remainder of the ordinary revenue is derived from the rent of markets and ghauts, &c., in George Town, and other minor sources. Special revenue is raised under the Waterworks Ordinance, No. XX. of 1868, and special receipts have accrued, which have been appropriated to the erection of the Town Hall in George Town.

12. The expenditure of the municipality, leaving out of account a few trifling charges for the conservancy of villages in the island and province, may be classed as follows:—

I. General administration.
II. Conservancy of George Town.
III. Roads, streets, and bridges, in the Island of Penang (town and country).
IV. Contribution to Government towards maintenance of police force.
V. Waterworks.
VI. Special (Town Hall).

13. The rates and taxes raised in the districts of the island beyond the town limits may be said, with sufficient accuracy, to be expended on the country and suburban roads; * but in regard to the rates and taxes of Province Wellesley there is no corresponding charge, the roads there, extending to about 160 miles, being maintained by the Government. The arrangement is anomalous and is merely the result of the inability of the municipality, with the means at its disposal, to carry out the whole of the duties assigned to it by the Municipal Acts. And though a considerable improvement on the revenue may be expected from a more thorough assessment of the lands in the country districts, both in the Island and the Province, it may be questioned whether the revenue derived from these sources will ever be adequate to the proper maintenance of the country roads and the conservancy of the country villages; and on these and other grounds it is a question for consideration whether the scope of the municipal functions might not advantageonsly be limited, both as to the collection of revenue and the corresponding duties, to the town of George Town and its immediate neighbourhood, say to the extent of the four-mile radius from the central police station, which is the present limit under the Hackney Carriages Ordinance and under the "Dangerous and Offensive Trades" sections of the Conservancy Act XIV. of 1856.

14. Among the works of importance which the inadequate means at the disposal of the municipality have hitherto debarred the Commissioners from undertaking, the one which perhaps is most urgently required is the construction of a carriage road in the place of the six miles of bridle path which at present connects the carriage road from George Town to the village of Ayer Hitam with the carriage roads of the district of Balik Pulau on the western side of the island. No estimate has yet been made of the cost of the road, but a sum of $40,000, such as might be raised if the arrangement suggested above in para. 10 were carried out, would go a long way towards covering the cost; and considerable subscriptions in aid of the work would probably be forthcoming from the occupiers of land on the Balik Pulau side of the hills one of whom has already promised a contribution of $5,000 for the purpose. The district is a large and populous one, and from want of the road it is but little known to Europeans, and rarely visited by officers of the Government; circumstances which seem to account for the lawlessness and crime for which the district has acquired an unenviable reputation.

15. Works for the supply of water to George Town and its suburbs were undertaken as early as 1865, and money borrowed for carrying them out; and in 1868, an Ordinance (No. XX. of

* These roads, including, in the case of those which lead cut from George Town, the portions included within the town limits, extend to about 92 miles, of which 66 miles are carriage or cart roads, and 25 miles are bridle paths.

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1868) was passed to defray the expenses incurred, and to make provision for repayment of the money borrowed and the interest accruing thereon. The total revenue raised under the Ordinance up to the close of 1879, including rents derived from bathing places, and other miscellaneous sources connected with the supply, amounted to $163,016. The expenditure during the same period, including interest on the debt, amounted to $239,001.

16. The Town Hall, George Town, which was undertaken in 1877, was nearly completed at the close of 1879. The total cost of the construction, when the outstanding bills have been paid, will amount to $39,965; but further expenditure will be required for enclosing and laying out the compound and for outbuildings and furniture. The expenditure has been partly defrayed from a Government grant representing the amounts paid by the proprietors of properties in Beach Street for encroachments on the foreshore. The amount so received by the Commissioners in 1878, was $22,573, and a further sum of $3,343 will be received this year. The interest that accrued on the grant for the period during which the money remained unemployed, was $1,949, raising the total amount of the special receipts on account of the work to $27,865.

Public Works.

17. The revenue collected by this Department was less than that collected during either of the two preceding years. This falling off was due to a reduction in "Rents exclusive of Land," in consequence of the convalescent bungalow on the hill not having been let, owing to its undergoing extensive repairs; to no rent having been received for the old building known as Anderton lodge, by reason of its demolition; and, in the survey branch, to a certain amount of survey fees not having been paid up.

18. The expenditure of the Department was unusually great: that on "Civil works and buildings" having amounted to $50,267; on "Military works and buildings," to $2,760; on "Roads, streets, and bridges," to $37,672; and on stores to $570; or altogether, to $91,271. This total expenditure had only been previously exceeded by that of the year 1875, which amounted to $119,597.

19. The principal works, the cost of which was defrayed by this expenditure, were, a lock-up and engine house, with other additions, and some alterations, at the police station, at Bukit Tambûn, Province Wellesley; quarters for five police constables at Sungei Penang, at the back of the island; quarters for forty police constables at the old Government brick fields, outside the town, on the Jelûtong road; a quarter for the marine inspector, over the marine police quarters, near the harbour master's office; an additional wing, of two stories, containing ninety-six cellular wards, at the gaol; a ward for patients suffering from chronic diseases, and a quarter for a dresser at Sungei Bakup hospital, Province Wellesley; a ward for special cases, to accommodate

eight patients, at the hospital at Butterworth, Province Wellesley; quarters for a dresser and servants at the Bukit Miniak hospital, Province Wellesley; an additional ward, and quarters for servants, at Bertam, Province Wellesley; surface drainage at the General Hospital, at Chowrasta; four harbour marks, to mark the new limits of the harbour; a covered way at the end of the Government landing pier, near the marine police quarters, in the town; an infectious diseases ward, and a separation wall for it, at the gaol hospital, as well as a new guard room, some new gates, &c., also at the gaol; an additional cell at the police station at Butterworth; quarters for the police, at Telok Ayer Tawar, Province Wellesley; repairs and alterations to the Government bungalows on the hill; and reconstructing and repairing wards at the quarantine station, Pulau Jerajah.

20. The outlay on up-keep was $9,559, being greater than it had been during any previous year; but this larger amount was necessitated by the greatly increased number of Government buildings, many of which are of a temporary nature, and by the bad state many of them had got into, owing to insufficient votes for maintenance, in the estimates of previous years.

21. The sum expended on minor works and alterations was $1,546, or $640 less than in the previous year.

22. The expenditure on military works was only $2,760, of which $936 were spent on minor works and alterations, and $1,823 on maintenance; no new military work of importance was undertaken.

23. On roads and bridges the expenditure of $37,672, met the cost of widening and metalling part of the road from Kuâla Prai to Sungei Rambei; metalling the road from Butterworth to Kuâla Prai; metalling the road from Permatang Pau to Bagan Lalang; metalling a portion of the road between Permatang Pau and Bukit Tengah; raising and improving the roads from Permatang Boya to Bertam hospital, and from Penaga to Kuâla Buka; reforming part of the road to Rambei village; reconstructing the ferry causeways, and the approaches to them, at Bagan Lalang; and reconstructing five wooden bridges on the Maklôm, Arrarendang, and Penaga roads.

24. The ordinary current maintenance of roads and bridges, including the hill road in Penang, and the ferries in Province Wellesley, accounted for $18,667, out of the total expenditure.

Survey Branch.

25. In consequence of the weakness of the staff of surveyors the area of allotment surveys—7,226 acres—was rather less than in 1878. The area of the circuit survey was 8,130 acres; this, for the same reason, was less than in the previous year. The survey of private property, and the issue of "permits" for land, had to be stopped, on account of the insufficient staff of the department.

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26. Captain Satterthwaite, R.E., the Deputy Colonial Engineer, was absent on leave, in England, during the whole of the year, and Mr. Magalhaens, the Superintendent of Works and Surveys at Malacca, held the acting appointment.

Education.

27. The greatest number of pupils on the register of the free school, at any time during the year, was 706 ; the average number 630 ; and the average daily attendance of pupils at the school 510. These figures differ to no important extent from those of the previous year. 175 boys were admitted, and 204 left the school. 495 boys were Chinese, 40 Malays, 30 Asiatics other than Chinese, and 8 of European parentage. The teachers comprised a head-master and 15 assistants, whose salaries, together, amounted to $8,230. The ordinary receipts of the school amounted to $10,906, as against $10,833 in the previous year ; and the expenditure to $9,454, as against $7,226. The new class-room for 150 boys, built and furnished for the sum of $2,020, which was liberally presented for the purpose by Mr. Koh Seang Tat, was completed and occupied. The per-centage of passes obtained at the annual examination by the inspector of schools, fell, principally consequent on the introduction of the regulations of the revised standard, from 66, in 1878, to 55 ; under the former standard the per-centage would have been 62. The new standard excludes all passes obtained by pupils who fail in a majority of subjects.

28. At the Christian Brothers' school, there was a falling off in the number of pupils, from 184 to 177 ; but the average daily attendance increased from 132 to 136. The number of Chinese boys was only 34. The per-centage of passes, at this school, fell, under the new standard regulations, from 64 to 63 ; but would, under the old regulations have reached 66. Considerable additional class-room accommodation was made to this school, at an outlay of $2,623. Two new class-rooms were commenced, and one was completed ; but the latter is not yet sufficiently advanced towards completion to be occupied ; and there are at present insufficient funds to complete it. The sum required for this purpose is estimated at $1,000.

29. In Penang, there were eleven vernacular schools, having, altogether, 421 pupils on their registers, out of which number the average daily attendance was 331. In Province Wellesley, the number of vernacular schools was 9, having 283 pupils on their registers, and an average daily attendance of 219.

30. Besides these schools there was one at Pulau Tikus, in Penang, belonging to the Christian Brothers, with 83 pupils, and an average attendance of 71. The Protestant Tamil Mission had a school in town of 40 boys, with an average attendance of 33 ; and there was the nucleus of an English teaching school in

Province Wellesley, of 12 boys, at which the average attendance was 9. PENANG.

Imports and Exports.

31. A decrease took place in both the imports and the exports of the Settlement, the former to the extent of $44,443, and the latter of $404,230; or, together, of $448,673.

32. The greatest decrease in the imports occurred in those from the United Kingdom, which amounted to $1,542,604. In those from British India, there was a decrease in their value to the large amount of $333,544; from Arabia there was a decrease to the value of $15,807; from French India, of $43,832; from Java, of $13,325; from the Maldive Islands, of $37,312. At the same time, from British Burmah, there was an increase in their value to the amount of $41,888; from Ceylon, of $42,105; from America, of $47,716; from China, of $52,883; from Siam, of 86,162; and, greatest of all, from Hong Kong, of $610,728.

33. The local Import trade increased to the extent of $1,062,828 as shown below:—

To Singapore and Malacca - -	$441,421
Malayan Peninsula - - -	409,436
Sumatra - - -	211·971

34. In exports, a decrease took place in those to the United Kingdom to the value of $306,410; to British India, of $119,386; to Hong Kong, of $112,884; to France, of $43,953; to French India, of $38,659; to Italy, of $25,488; to Java, of $84,583; and to Siam to the very considerable value of $894,890.

35. In consequence of the great decrease in the exports to Sumatra, the value of the local exports presented a decrease of $284,777, according to the following detail:—

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$
Exports to Singapore and Malacca	553,879	—
„ Malayan Peninsula -	160,470	—
„ Sumatra - -	—	999,126

36. It is satisfactory to observe that the trade with the Malayan peninsula improved, so as to show an increase of $569,706 in the value of its combined exports and imports, which amounted to $2,741,542.

Shipping.

37. An increase of 10 steamers and 6 schooners, and a decrease of 6 ships, took place in the number of vessels that entered the port. This number, which was 1,716, was made up of 211

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schooners, 16 brigs, 78 barques, 14 ships, and 1,397 steamers. The net increase in the tonnage inwards was 6,554. The increase in the tonnage of steamers alone was, 15,458; and of schooners 2,043. The decrease was in that of brigs, 1,109; of barques 2,202; and of ships, 7,636 tons. The whole tonnage inwards was 898,530 tons.

38. Outwards, the increase of vessels was 4 schooners and 6 steamers; and the decrease, 1 barque and 6 ships. The net increase in tonnage outwards was 12,892, which was made up of an increase in the tonnage of steamers of 28,211, and of schooners of 3,493; and a decrease in that of brigs of 1,120, of barques of 3,070, and of ships of 7,636 tons. The whole tonnage outwards was 886,028 tons.

39. The native craft inwards increased considerably both in number and tonnage; the increase in the former having been 517, and in the latter 11,023 tons. There was, however, a falling off in the native craft that cleared outwards, of 313 in number, and 9,535 in tonnage.

40. The total number of native craft, inwards, was 1881, and their tonnage amounted to 53,023; outwards the number was 2,316, and their tonnage 62,647.

Land.

41. The sum of $36,779, or $499 less than in the previous year, was collected from land. Of this amount $17,072 were collected in Penang, and $19,707 in Province Wellesley, including $2,505 in the district of Trans-Krîan, lately acquired from the Native State of Pêrak.

42. The following leases, permits, &c., were issued by the land office:—

	Penang.		Province Wellesley.		Trans-Krîan.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R.
Leases, town -	1	1 2 24	—	—	—	—
Leases, country -	20	296 0 0	77	323 0 0	—	—
Permits - -	109	579 0 0	71	437 0 0	—	—
Settlement officers' certificates -	—	—	—	—	173	591 0 0

43. On account of the weakness of the Survey Department the issue of permits had to be suspended.

44. The number of houses in George Town was 6,820, and the number in the rest of the Island of Penang 3,831; and in Province

Wellesley, there were 9,539. The whole of these houses are assessed at the rate of 10 per cent. on their average annual rental, for municipal purposes, as well as for the part payment to Government of the cost of the police department and the magistrates' establishments. The total assessment collected on account of them amounted to $56,000.

45. The estimated area of cultivated land in the Settlement, out of a total area of 228,000 acres, is 168,190 acres; and this at 5 per cent. on the average annual rental, produced, for te above purposes, the sum of $26,500.

46. The authority of the municipal commissioners, for the purposes of assessment, extends over the whole Settlement, with the exception of the newly acquired Trans-Krian district, on the houses and lands in which no assessment has yet been charged.

Medical.

47. Some sporadic cases of small-pox made their appearance during the year, and 9 cases of that disease were treated in the small-pox hospital. The general health of the Settlement was, however, good, and no disease existed in it epidemically. The ample provision of good water with which George Town is supplied, has had, no doubt, much to do with its improved sanitary condition.

48. The Senior Medical Officer of the Settlement in his annual report, remarks :—" Until a proper hospital is erected it cannot " be expected that Europeans will avail themselves of hospital " accommodation. I have in vain urged upon Europeans, whom I " have been called upon to attend, the advantage of treating " their cases in hospital, where the necessary appliances are at " hand; but in instances when I have induced them to enter, the " desolate and unsatisfactory condition of the buildings alone, " were enough to drive them away. As one patient expressed " himself:—'It is as bad as a prison without the life and bustle.'" It is to be regretted, therefore, that a year at least has been lost in commencing the new hospital buildings, which are so urgently needed, not only for Europeans, but for all classes of patients.

49. The number of Europeans treated in the General Hospital was 89, of whom two died; both within 12 hours of admission. The number of natives treated was 585, among whom the death rate was 3·93 per cent.

50. The number of patients treated in the Pauper Hospital has greatly increased of late years, and it reached as high as 1,837 for the year. A sudden influx of patients during the year necessitated immediate increased temporary accommodation; and this was met by the construction of attap wards, for 40 patients each, at the back of the building formerly occupied as the Civil Hospital, opposite the present Pauper Asylum; and by utilising that old building itself for 36 patients.

51. Additional ground for this hospital was purchased; a wall was built to enclose it, together with the old premises; and two new wards, one to contain about 50, and the other about 40

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patients were constructed, and the ground round them was raised and drained.

52. The cost of these works was defrayed from a fund of about $7,000, raised by subscription, principally among the native population. Two Chinese gentlemen, Messrs. Gan Kim Swee and Oh Yean Heng, together subscribed about $6,000 of this amount.

53. This hospital is abundantly supplied with excellent water from the hill, direct from the main pipe leading to the town.

54. At the Leper Hospital at Pulau Jerajah, the number treated was 92, of which 39 were admitted during the year. The number of patients in this hospital has been steadily increasing year by year.

55. During last year the patients were generally free from any other disease than that on account of which they had entered the asylum.

56. The Senior Medical Officer reports that the sanitary condition of the establishment was fair, and the water supply ample.

57. The hospital was visited weekly in rotation by the medical officers in Penang and in Province Wellesley, who regularly sent in reports on their visits to the Lieutenant-Governor.

58. The sanitary condition of the gaol is described by the Senior Medical Officer as having been "eminently satisfactory, and the mortality in it extremely small."

59. The number of patients treated in the Gaol Hospital was 425, including 22 that remained in hospital from the previous year. Fifty per cent. of the cases admitted to hospital are represented by the medical officer as having been sick when admitted to prison; and their diseases to have been caused by their previous habits, vices, or destitute condition.

60. The diseases contracted in the prison were of a trifling nature, and due to incidental causes in no way connected with the labour performed by the prisoners, with the diet supplied to them nor with any deficiency of sanitary arrangements; the diet was probably better, and the labour not more arduous than many were accustomed to when at liberty.

61. The following are comparative tables showing the numbers treated in each of the hospitals of the Settlement, and the percentage of deaths to treated, during the years 1877, 1878, and 1879:—

	1877.	1878.	1879.
General Hospital - -	718	652	674
Lock Hospital - - -	480	1,184	1,318
Pauper Hospital - -	1,154	1,644	1,837
Small-pox Hospital - -	—	—	9
Leper Hospital - - -	64	78	92
Butterworth Hospital - -	416	337	489
Bertam Hospital - -	270	380	345
Bukit Miniak Hospital - -	560	350	322
Sungei Bakup Hospital - -	569	367	251
Gaol Hospital - - -	636	707	434
Total -	4,867	5,699	5,771

Death Rate per cent. of Treated.

	1877.	1878.	1879.
General Hospital - -	7·1	4·29	3·7
Lock Hospital - - -	—	0·08	0·15
Pauper Hospital - -	20·7	15·6	15·8
Small-pox Hospital - -	—	—	—
Leper Hospital - -	25·	29·4	35·8
Butterworth Hospital - -	19·94	16·	7·3
Bertam Hospital - -	20·	21·3	6·08
Bukit Miniak Hospital - -	19·64	29·14	11·8
Sungei Bakup Hospital - -	22·67	35·1	3·9
Gaol Hospital - - -	6·4	2·4	1·8

62. The expenditure of each of the hospitals, the average cost per patient at each, and the receipts from patients are given below:—

	Expenditure.	Average Cost per Patient per Day.	Receipts.
	$ c.	c.	$ c.
General Hospital - -	4,927 29	52	2,149 86
Lock Hospital - - -	4,622 71	15⅓	—
Pauper Hospital - -	12,136 00	9	—
Leper Hospital - - -	3,722 84	17	—
Butterworth Hospital - -	6,457 04	52	1,800 00
Bertam Hospital - -	2,383 38	43	1,200 00
Bukit Miniak Hospital - -	3,187 05	28	1,300 00
Sungei Bakup Hospital - -	1,961 09	35	1,400 00
Gaol Hospital - - -	*1,409 06	18¾	—
Total -	40,806 46	—	7,849 86

63. The above expenditure does not include the cost of medicine and surgical instruments, nor are the salary and transport allowance of the senior medical officer taken into account in computing the items in the above table.

64. An addition of two cents per head per diem was made to the charge for native patients in the Province Wellesley hospitals, raising it from 8 to 10 cents. The charge for other patients remained as before.

65. The apothecaries borrowed from the Government of India returned to Madras during the year, and were relieved by those specially trained for this Colony, at the Medical College in that Presidency.

Gaols.

66. The Superintendent of Prisons reports very highly on the energy and zeal of the gaolor, who, he states, was ably and actively supported by the European staff of the gaol, among

* Diets, clothing, attendance, &c. are not included in this amount, being charged to the general maintenance of the gaol

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whom, he specially brings favourably to notice the chief warder. It is to be regretted, that he was unable to speak favourably, with a few exceptions, of the native warders; there is, however, always great difficulty in obtaining trustworthy natives for the duties required of them in the prison.

67. The numbers of admissions of male prisoners, into the criminal gaol during the year were 111 Europeans, and 2,431 natives: 5 Europeans and 364 natives remained in gaol on 1st January from the year 1878; and 2,439 were liberated within the twelvemonth. The daily averages of criminal prisoners were 7 Europeans and 317 natives, and the cost of their maintenance was $174 for the former, and $6,032 for the latter; or altogether $6,206.

68. The European prisoners were mostly soldiers and sailors belonging to the merchant service. The greater part of the native prisoners were Chinese.

69. The whole of the prisoners were employed at stone breaking; each prisoner breaking 7 cubic feet of hard rough granite into macadam of 1 inch gauge, per diem.

70. Two hundred prisoners were imprisoned in cellular wards, and the remainder in association, The 96 new additional cellular wards were nearly completed by the end of the year, and have since been occupied.

71. A case of murder occurred within the gaol; a Chinese prisoner, sentenced to two months imprisonment for theft, having killed a native warder with a hatchet. The murderer was tried sentenced to death, and executed. One prisoner, a Malay, escaped at out-door labour, but was recaptured. Four prisoners were punished for striking native warders.

72. The principal prison offences were: committing a nuisance in, and defiling the cells and wards; disorderly conduct; disobedience of orders; and being in possession of prohibited articles. An increased number of prison offences were reported during the year; but this is principally attributed to greater vigilance on the part of the warders, and to stricter discipline having been maintained. About 32 per cent. of the prisoners had been previously in gaol, and many of them, three and even four times.

73. Of eight persons condemned to death, five were executed, and the rest had their sentences commuted to penal servitude for life.

74. The number of long-sentence prisoners transferred to Singapore was 140; and the cost of their transport amounted to $755·08, or $5·35 per head.

75. The matron of the female prison performed her duties efficiently, and during the year, had charge of 32 prisoners; but the average daily number of female prisoners was only 3·09. They were confined in an association ward.

76. In the civil prison, the average daily numbers were 0·21 Europeans, and 35·19 natives. There was no misconduct on the part of the civil prisoners.

Post Office.

77. The business of this department increased by the receipt and despatch of about 9,000 additional covers; the total number of covers received and despatched having, together, been about 339,446.

78. The number of letters received increased by 8,500 and the number despatched by 5,000. There was, however, a decrease of 1,000 in the number of newspapers received; and a decrease, to about the same extent, in the number of those despatched. There was also a decrease of 500 in the number of books received, but in the number of those despatched little alteration occurred.

79. The postal agent for the government of Netherlands India, when first appointed in 1878, received only one bag of letters by each of the outward English mails, but during last year, the number of bags increased to 5 or 6 by each mail. The number of bags received by the Netherlands' agent from Sumatra, for transmission homewards, increased in a like proportion, so that, in considering the increase in the correspondence actually passing through the Post office of this Settlement, the Sumatra postal service, with the details of which the postmaster here is of course unacquainted, must not be left out of account. Before this special service existed the Sumatra correspondence passed, in the usual manner, through this post office, and was included in the numbers shown in the statistical returns of the general correspondence.

80. The regulations under the convention of Paris superseded those under the treaty of Berne, on the 1st April, but the alterations caused by this change were principally of a departmental nature. As affecting the public, the most important alteration was the reduction of the charge for postage to the United Kingdom, *viâ* Brindisi, from 16 cents to 12 cents, and to the continent of Europe, and other countries of the postal union, by the same route, from 12 cents to 8 cents.

81. The revenue of the department fell from $17,382 to $16,898, showing a decrease of $484. This is accounted for, principally, by the reduction in postage, and the change in the arrangements of the Sumatra mail service, in consequence of which fewer stamps are purchased here by persons in Sumatra.

82. The local postal communication,—that with Province Wellesley, increased by 507 covers received, and 2,740 despatched. The total number of those received was 5,944; and of those despatched 13,498. The increase took place entirely in letters.

83. The amounts transmitted by money orders were greater to the United Kingdom and to Hong Kong; but the amount transmitted within the Colony was less, reducing the total amount thus transmitted to $412 less than in the preceding year. The sums received by money orders were also greater from the United Kingdom and from China; but within the Colony they again were less, reducing the total amount received by $355. The sums issued for transmission were $3,350 to the United Kingdom,

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$100 to Hong Kong, and $921 within the Colony; those paid were, $47 received from the United Kingdom, $170 from Hong Kong, and $549 from places within the Colony.

Judicial.

84. The Registrar of the Supreme Court having retired on pension, a member of the Singapore bar was provisionally appointed to succeed him. The deputy registrarship also became vacant by the resignation of the deputy registrar but the appointment was not filled up before the close of the year.

85. Complaints continued to be received from the magistrates of their insufficient number, and of the consequent impossibility of satisfactorily performing their judicial and other duties. It was decided by the Secretary of State that the offices of magistrate and of protector of Indian immigrants, held jointly by one of the magistrates, should be separated, and that an officer from India, to be nominated by the Indian Government, should hold the latter appointment. This appointment was not, however, made within the year.

86. The following numbers of persons tried for offences, and of civil cases adjudicated by the Supreme and other Courts of Justice in the Settlement, will give a fair idea of the work performed in each of those courts, during the past three years.

Supreme Court.

		1877.	1878.	1879.
Criminal side - -	persons	120	145	181
Plea side - -	cases	42	76	434
Equity side - -	„	17	18	
Administration - -	„	169	224	208
Probate - -	„	32	26	41
Bankruptcy -	„	—	17	5
Summary side -	„	293	221	—

Magistrates' Courts.

		1877.	1878.	1879.
Penang -	persons	11,940	11,669	11,441
Marine Magistrate -	cases	115	386	583
Province Wellesley -	„	5,321	5,384	5,842

Courts of Requests.

——	1877.	1878.	1879.
Penang - - - cases	1,224	2,322	2,253
Province Wellesley - „	478	431	519

Indian Immigration.

87. The number of Indian immigrants introduced into the Settlement, during the year, under the Immigration Ordinance, was 853; but 4,379 natives of India arrived as free passengers, of which number, it is believed, that about three fourths should have immigrated under the provisions of that ordinance. The number of Indian immigrants that returned to India was 1,879.

88. The receipts of the Indian Immigration Department were $899; and the expenditure, exclusive of the emigration agency at Negapatam, $6,085; in which is included the sum of $1,548 on account of the transport of immigrants sent back to India.

89. In the early part of the year the attention of Government was drawn to the high death rates among the Indian labourers on some of the estates in Province Wellesley. The returns furnished to Government showed that, between 7th January 1877, and the 22nd August 1878, the number of Coolies that joined the Batu Kawan, Caledonia, Krîan, and Malakoff estates, and the proportion of that number that died between the date of their arrival and 31st May 1879 were as follows:—

——	No. Arrived.	No. of Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths.
Batu Kawan - - -	673	149	22·1
Caledonia - - -	550	107	19·4
Krîan - - - -	350	97	27·7
Malakoff - - -	479	105	21·9

90. Dr. Rowell, the Principal Civil Medical Officer of the Colony at Singapore, visited these estates in February, by order of the Government; and the result of enforcing his recommendations was an immediate reduction in the death rate, and that during the month of December not a single death occurred on any of them.

91. Among other measures adopted for the benefit of the Indian Coolies, new hospitals were built by the proprietors of the following estates in Province Wellesley:—

On Pry Estate - - - for 60 patients.
Batu Kawan Estate - - for 60 do.
Golden Grove Estate- - for 30 do.
Malakoff Estate - - for 30 do.

PENANG.

92. Dr. Rowell considers these hospitals to be well constructed, and at his last visit found the arrangements connected with them satisfactory. He also found the general health of the Coolies on the estates greatly improved.

Chinese Immigration and Emigration.

93. There was a decrease of the number of Chinese immigrants, which for the year was 21,520, or 3,298 less than in 1878. Of that number 8,994 arrived from Hong Kong, 7,511 from Swatow, 4,624 from Amoy, and 394 from Hainan. Of these immigrants who arrived by 95 steamers, 1 sailing vessel, and 9 junks, 11,961 had paid their passages, and 9,562 were admitted to the licensed depôts, 171 proceeded to Rangoon, 31to Bangkok, and 185 to Tongkhan.

94. The number of Chinese women that landed in the Settlement was 445, and of children 35; and the number of women that returned to China was 32.

95. The Protector states three causes for the decrease in immigration, viz.:—The small profits realised by exporters of labour, which necessitated 6 or 7 firms at Hong Kong and Swatow discontinuing the business of exporting Coolies; the Government of China having taken to export labour to the island of Formosa, and, in consequence, having diverted intending emigrants to the Straits, to that island; and measures, reported to have been adopted by ill-disposed persons, at Swatow, to prevent emigration to this Colony.

96. The emigration of Chinese to Sumatra also decreased, from 7,182, in 1878, to 4,355.

97. Eight thousand five hundred and sixty (8,560) labour contracts were entered into before the Protector, as against 11,243 in 1878: of these 4,350 were contracts to labour outside the Colony and 4,215 within it. The conduct of the immigrants, while at the Protector's office, was orderly.

98. There are in the Settlement, six secret societies, which with 404 office bearers, and 39,627 members, belonging to them, are registered according to law.

MALACCA.

No. 16.

The Lieutenant-Governor MALACCA to the Colonial Secretary.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office, Malacca,
May 5, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my report on this Settlement for the year 1879.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. SQUIRL, Major,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Singapore.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT, MALACCA, 1879.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue for 1879 amounted to $147,956 33, showing an increase over that of 1878 of $23,160 84.

The larger portion of this increase was due to "Land Revenue" which stands at $45,690 65 for 1879 as against $26,871 01 for 1878.

Reimbursements are partly due to survey fees, and may be said to form part of the land revenue.

Estimated thus, the land revenue would show a total increase of $25,461 96.

Licences show an apparent falling off of $5,596 25, which is explained by two months' rent of the Opium and Spirit Farm having been paid in December 1878.

The following comparative statements contain full information as to the variations under the respective heads of revenue and expenditure.

The main increases in expenditure were :—For works and buildings, $10,975 53; roads, streets, and bridges, $2,113 17; salaries, $2,412 38; education, $4,185 97; transport, $1,060 95; and revenue services, $1,240 32. The principal increase of salaries are in the Public Works Department, consequent on its reorganisation.

The increase for transport and revenue services were due to increased supervision by the Land Office.

The others will be more conveniently referred to under their respective heads. (Appendix I.)

Land.

The total revenue for 1879 amounted to, including reimbursements (survey fees and sale of maps), $54,716 10, being an increase over that of 1878 of $25,461 96.

MALACCA.

The principal increase was under the following heads:—

	$	cts.
Premium on leases, - - -	6,415	63
Land rents and commuted tenths - -	5,694	71
Tenths on paddy - - -	2,434	49
Tenths on tapioca - - -	4,549	40
Tenths on fruits - - -	439	70
Timber royalty - - -	182	91
Survey fees - - -	6,615	32

The principal decrease has been under the following heads:—

	$	cts.
Tenths on tin - - - -	564	11
For search, registration, &c. - -	171	50

The expenditure amounted to $9,288 12, being an increase over that of 1878 of $1,169 14.

This is accounted for under the following heads:—

	$	cts.
Extra clerks - - - - -	641	94
Allowance to Pĕngûlus for collection of land revenue	110	83
Transport - - - - -	774	03

There is a decrease of $358 02 under the head of salaries.

Encroachers on Crown lands have been compelled to take out leases, paying rent for the time they have been in occupation, plus premium and survey fees, which accounts, in a great measure, for the increase under these three heads.

The increase of tenths, both on paddy and tapioca, I attribute to greater vigilance on the part of the Land Office, many individuals escaping formerly without the tenth being assessed.

There is a small increase on tenths for fruit. This tax is found very difficult to collect owing to its discontinuance for some years.

The decrease for tenths on tin is due to the fact that the ore is nearly exhausted, and the miners are drawn off to more profitable mines in the neighbouring States.

The decrease under the head of registration is much to be regretted. Were registration compulsory, it would greatly facilitate the collection of rents on leases, which are constantly changing hands.

The increase in expenditure is due to the necessity that existed of strengthening the land office with a view to greater supervision, the increase to the Pĕngûlus necessarily increases with the revenue, as they receive a commission of one tenth on all revenue collected by them.

The tenth system is very faulty, and it would be well if it could be superseded. It is unprofitable to the cultivator where the fair tenth is exacted, and entails great expense in the collection, besides giving rise to much peculation.

The only solution of the land question here is, in my opinion, to issue and encourage the taking out of leases, but the Survey

Office cannot, at its present strength, keep pace with the demands made upon it; there are great numbers clamouring for leases, and yet, although many of them have paid both premium and survey fees more than 12 months ago, I am unable to comply with their requests for want of surveyors.

The number of leases issued in 1879 was 98, representing an area of 18,224 acres 3 roods 23 poles, as against 124 in 1878, representing 4,500 acres 1 rood 5 poles.

There are large arrears due on account of unpaid tenths, the reason being that the Ordinance No. IX. of 1876, directing tenths shall be paid previous to the crop being removed, has never been carried out here. (Appendix II.)

Public Works Department.

The total expenditure by this department for works and buildings and roads and bridges in 1879 amounted to $43,572 76, showing an increase over that of 1878 of $13,050 24. Of this $10,975 53 is due to increased expenditure on works and buildings, civil and military; for the completion of the roof of the Police Court and Court of Requests; the new bridge across the Chin Chin; and the new permanent police stations on the frontier.

These works were begun in 1878 and finished in 1879.

The following more important works, included under the same head of expenditure, were begun and completed within the year:—

Two new police stations, one at Nialas, and one at Batang Malacca.

Special services to complete Tanjong Kling Bungalow.

Erection of a hospital for the criminal prison, female ward, and quarters for the Native and European warders in criminal prison.

The construction of the lighthouse at Pulo Undan was commenced.

The barrack accommodation was considerably extended and certain necessary repairs to the military hospital and officers' quarters were carried out. (Appendix III.)

Survey Branch.

Thirty-two thousand and eighty-one (32,081) acres of tapioca lands were surveyed during the year, of which 3,506 were encroachments; 134 allotments, comprising an area of 1,586 acres, were included in the allotment survey.

Although much has been done, there remains much to do, and it is essential that, if the land question at Malacca is to be settled on a satisfactory basis, the survey staff should be considerably strengthened. The average cost of field work is 15 cents per acre, while the fee charged is in excess of this, so that any increased expenditure would be more than covered.

MALACCA.

Medical.

The general health of the Settlement during 1879 has been good. There were no epidemic diseases.

The total number of cases treated in the General Hospital was 277, compared with 211 in 1878; of these, 261 were discharged cured, 1 absconded, 9 died, and 6 remained under treatment at the close of the year.

Seventy-two (72) patients were treated in the Lock Hospital, all being discharged cured.

Five hundred and sixty-seven (567) cases were treated in the Pauper Hospital, of which 473 were discharged cured, 52 died, and 42 remained in hospital on 31st December.

The majority of cases treated were Chinese coolies, discharged by their employers on account of sickness; some of them were in a dying condition when they reached the hospital.

There were 22 patients in the Leper Hospital in the beginning of 1879; 11 died, and 10 were admitted during the year.

One thousand and four hundred (1,400) individuals were vaccinated during the year, the results in 75 per cent. of the cases being successful; the cost of each successful case was 71 cents.

Gaol.

Two hundred and forty one (241) prisoners were committed to the Criminal Prison during the year, and 271 discharged.

Of those committed, 15 were Europeans, 140 Chinese, 62 Malays, and 24 natives of India.

The number of persons committed during 1878 was 337.

Revenue prisoners and persons committed for nonpayment of fines were employed in cleaning drains, removing rubbish and other fatigue duties, the remainder in stone-breaking, with an interval of one hour's shot-drill night and morning.

One prisoner, a Chinese named Tan Kean *alias* Tay Kian, committed suicide by hanging himself; he had been three times convicted.

The average daily sick during the year was 2·28.

The Civil Prison contained in all during the year 241 persons; of these, 12 were debtors, the remainder consisting of persons under remand, committed to the assizes, and lunatics under medical observation.

There were no escapes during the year.

The nett expenses of the establishment, including salaries, were for 1879, $5,168 76.

Education

The Free School, which had been for a number of years in a decaying condition, was made a Government institution, and placed under a competent head master, in the autumn of 1878; since then the improvement has been marked, the per-centage of passes at the last inspection being 80, and 114 boys presented, against 32 in 1878.

There remains, however, much to be done, and if the school is to take its proper rank among educational establishments of the Colony, it will be necessary to remodel the staff and obtain better qualified instructors among the junior masters. The remarks of my predecessor as to boys arriving at the head master's class with so limited a knowledge of English as to be unable to profit by the instruction there afforded them, apply as forcibly now as when written in 1876. This is the less to be wondered at when it is remembered that of the five assistant masters not one has received any training for the profession of a teacher.

The number of boys on the register for the year was 209, as against 177.

The average daily attendance was 170·6, against 114 for 1878.

The vernacular schools, with one or two exceptions, appear to show a very disproportionate return for the large amount expended on them.

Postal Department.

The year's revenue of this department, was $790 77, an increase of $45 21 over that for 1878, and the expenditure was $751 03, an increase of $54 73.

The number of letters received has increased by 5,867, and that of letters despatched by 1,778.

United Kingdom orders issued amounted to $656 53; local orders to $1,535 50.

The payments on United Kingdom orders were $1 65, and local orders $3,185 43.

Judicial.

Twenty-eight (28) cases, numbering 49 persons, were committed by the magistrates for trial during the year; of these 28 persons in 17 cases were convicted, and 9 persons in 7 cases acquitted, a *nolle prosequi* was entered in two cases, and one case was transferred to Singapore; the trial of the remaining case was not proceeded with on account of the insanity of the accused. There were only 21 cases on the calendar for 1878.

On the plea side of the court there were 48 actions, involving an aggregate sum of $14,813 51.

There were 100 administration and 17 probate cases, their respective totals being sworn under $59,776 and $71,700.

The magistrate's duties were performed during the early part of the year by the Lieutenant-Governor, from March to October by Mr. Kynnersley, and for three months after the latter's departure on leave by Mr. J. E. Westerhout.

Nine hundred and thirty-eight (938) cases were entered in the police books, and 452 cases in the summons books, as against 727 and 388 in 1878.

Twenty-eight (28) cases were committed to the assizes.

MALACCA.

No court of two magistrates was held.

The revenue from fines and fees amounted to $3,389 04, showing an increase over that for 1878 of $16 80.

In the Court of Requests 1,463 plaints were entered, and 1,218 cases disposed of, during 1879, as against 673 plaints and 633 trials in 1878.

This large increase in the number of plaints was due to its having been found necessary to compel the payment of certain rents and tenths due to Government, which were found irrecoverable by any other means.

Eight hundred and seventeen (817) were undefended.

The total amount of debt and damages claimed showed a slight decrease over that for 1878, the figures being $11,997 79 and $12,128 40 respectively.

Municipality.

The following table shows the comparative municipal revenue and expenditure for 1879.

It will be observed that the credit balance at the end of the year amounted to $1,402 43½.

The municipality is free from debt. (Appendix IV.)

Marine.

The revenue for 1879 amounted to $874 58, and the expenditure was $3,231 26, being an increase over that of 1878 of $14 62.

The total value of imports for 1879 shows a decrease of $75,296, and that of exports an increase of $153,080 over that of 1878.

Police.

The police establishment during the year consisted of one superintendent, two inspectors, one sub-inspector, two sergeant-majors, four sergeants, 29 corporals, and 194 constables. Of these, 20 resigned, 17 were dismissed for misconduct, four were invalided, one died, and one committed suicide. There were three cases of desertion. Forty-eight recruits were enlisted. A new station and barrack was built at Jelutong in place of the one at Malim, which has been abandoned. The Batang, Malacca, and Nialas stations have been rebuilt, as well as a barrack for the Banda Ilir station.

The principal crimes reported during the year were four cases of murder, three cases of attempt at murder, one case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, four cases of gang robbery, and one case of an attempt to sell into slavery.

General Remarks.

The quiet of the Settlement has, amongst all classes of the population, been steadily preserved throughout the year, and the attention of Chinese capitalists has, to a considerable extent, been given to the cultivation of tapioca and other produce.

Lands have, as far as practicable, been readily leased to those applying, and, where Crown lands have been largely encroached upon, surveys have been made, back rents demanded, and proper titles issued.

With regard to paddy lands in some districts from want of drainage, some tracts were thrown out of cultivation, and this, on representation to Government, is now under course of being improved by the clearing of the natural watercourses of the country.

The action taken in connexion with tapioca lands has been to bring about a large increase in the land revenue, not merely in the receipt of considerable sums in payment of premium for lands leased, but in rents which will be continuous from year to year.

On the subject of the principal items of the revenue of the Settlement, it is satisfactory to be able to report that the increase for 1880 in the Opium and Spirit Farm will be considerable, amounting to an excess over 1879 of $32,400.

It has been said with justice, that this Settlement has been a drag on the revenue of the Colony generally, but with the marked increase that is taking place in the principal items of revenue, and which may be safely looked upon as of a permanent nature, the progress of the Settlement will be at once apparent, and I may add that, in the item of land revenue especially, this has been secured without placing additional burdens upon the people.

(Signed) C. E. SQUIRL,
Major, 74th Highlanders,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1879-80.

(*In continuation of* [C.-2829.] *of March* 1881.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1881.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1881.

[C.—3094.]

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NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 1.

The Right Hon. Lord A. Loftus, G.C.B., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Government House, Sydney,
November 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward to you, herewith, the statistical register of New South Wales for the year 1879.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Augustus Loftus.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

The Registrar-General's Report to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Registrar-General's Department, Sydney,
August 20, 1880.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit my report on the statistical returns for the year 1879.

Part I.

Population, Vital Statistics, Immigration, &c.

Population.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December shows a total of 734,282 persons, giving an increase of 40,539 souls, or 5·84 per cent. on the estimated population for the previous year. Males are estimated at 409,665, and females at 324,617 or 55·79 per cent. and 44·21 per cent. respectively, so that males were 11·58 per cent. in excess of females. These figures show a much larger increase to our population than has been recorded for many years past.

Q 5904. Wt. 494.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The following figures give an estimate of the population for the half years ending 30th June and 31st December respectively :—

Half year ending 30th June 1879.

Births - - - -	12,822
Arrivals by sea - - -	20,864
Total - - -	33,686
Deaths - - - -	5,420
Departures by sea - - -	9,990
Total - - -	15,410

The gain to the population during this half year amounted to 18,276 souls, by the excess of 7,402 births over deaths, and of 10,874 arrivals over departures.

Half year ending 31st December 1879.

Births - - - -	14,111
Arrivals by sea - - -	23,637
Total - -	37,748
Deaths - - - -	4,780
Departures by sea - - -	10,705
Total - - -	15,485

In this period we find an increase of 22,263 persons, the births being in excess of the deaths by 9,331, and the arrivals exceeding the departures by 12,932.

Marriages, births, deaths.

During the year 1879 there were 5,391 marriages celebrated in the Colony. The births numbered 26,933, and the deaths 10,200. As compared with the previous year, we find that marriages were in excess by 74, births by 1,605, and deaths show a decrease of 563.

Immigration.

The number of persons who arrived in the Colony seaward during the year 1879 was 44,501, of whom 1,979 were children. For every year of the decade we find a steady increase in our population by immigration, except for the year 1873, when the number was nearly the same as for the previous year. Immigrants at the public expense from the United Kingdom, under the assisted regulations, numbered 5,731, consisting of 2,746 males and 2,985 females. Of this number adults form 70·61 per cent., and children 29·39 per cent. The native countries and religious persuasions of these immigrants are as follows:—England, 2,808; Scotland, 700; Ireland, 2,125; other countries, 98; total, 5,731. Protestants, 3,697; Roman Catholics, 2,013; other religions, 21; total, 5,731.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The receipts for the year 1879 on behalf of hospitals amounted to 62,247*l.*, and also the sum of 7,947*l.* on account of new building at Bathurst, which gives a total of 70,194*l.* Of this amount the Colonial Treasury supplied 44,480*l.*, and voluntary contributions and other sources 25,714*l.* The number of persons admitted in the year was 6,862, and 6,046 persons were discharged during the same period. The deaths numbered 755, or 11 per cent. on the admissions. Out-door relief was afforded to 9,190 persons. St. Vincent's, in Sydney, was the only hospital which was supported without aid from the Government.

Charitable Institutions, Hospitals.

Benevolent asylums show receipts for the year amounting to 25,076*l.*, the whole of which, with the exception of 1,627*l.*, was obtained from the public treasury. The admissions for the year were 2,356; discharges, 1,867; and 384 deaths occurred. Relief was afforded in 2,540 cases, and also to 16 persons.

Benevolent asylums.

The returns from these schools give their total receipts for the year as 39,118*l.*, obtained as follows:—From Colonial Treasury, 30,815*l.*; from voluntary contributions, &c., 8,303*l.* Five of these institutions were supported entirely by the Government, and two by private contributions.

Orphan and industrial schools.

The Inspector-General of the Insane furnishes a list of nine establishments. The cost of maintenance for the year, exclusive of expenditure for buildings, repairs, &c., was 68,066*l.* The sum of 1,966*l.* was received from relatives and friends for maintenance of patients, and paid into the Treasury. There were 863 patients admitted during the year and 644 discharged, &c. The number of deaths was 123, and there were 2,015 inmates at the close of the year.

Hospitals for the insane.

Under this head we find several institutions. Two of these received assistance from the Government to the amount of 1,500*l.*

Miscellaneous.

The general total amount of receipts on behalf of charitable institutions for the year 1879 was 210,545*l.*

PART II.

Religion, Education, Crime.

Ecclesiastical.

The number of Church of England ministers for the year 1879 registered under 19 Vict. Nos. 30 and 34 was 219. Salaries and allowances amounted to 8,258*l.*, and the sum of 3,649*l.*, was received from church and school estates, making a total of 11,907*l.* The number of churches and chapels was 440, with a total of 70,706 individual sittings. The average attendance is given as 54,855, and all other places used for public worship show an average attendance of 15,695. The ministers of the Roman Catholic Church numbered 173. The amount received during the year was 6,408*l.*, viz., 4,357*l.* as salaries and allowances, and 2,051*l.*

NEW SOUTH WALES.

from church and school estates. The number of churches and chapels was 282, of individual sittings 40,201, and the average attendance is given as 57,343, exclusive of 7,640 at other places used for public worship. There were 75 ministers of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales. The amount received as salaries and allowances was 1,702*l.*, and 654*l.* from church and school estates, making a total of 2,356*l.* This denomination shows 142 as the number of churches and chapels, with accommodation for 23,600 persons, and an average attendance of 13,355, and 4,439 at other places used for public worship.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church had a roll of 90 ministers. The amount received as salaries and allowances and from church and school estates were 1,372*l.* and 361*l.* respectively, in all a total of 1,733*l.* There were 281 churches and chapels, with an average attendance of 24,777, with 39,319 individual sittings. Other places used for public worship show an average attendance of 8,488. The remaining denominations received no aid from the State.

Sunday schools.

The total number of Sunday schools in the Colony for the year 1879 was 1,285. The number of children on the registers was 92,082, and the average attendance was 69,512. There were 8,491 teachers employed.

Education. Private schools.

The number of private schools in the Colony during the year 1879 was 538, with 18,592 pupils and 1,062 teachers. Out of these totals, the metropolitan district is shown to have 254 schools, with 10,444 scholars and 562 teachers.

Council of Education.

The following figures give the numbers of each class of schools under the Council of Education, with the number of teachers employed, number of scholars, and the amounts received from fees and other sources:—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Scholars.	Fees, &c.
	£	£	£	£
Public schools - - - -	684	1,263	88,488	50,847
Provisional do. - - - -	317	307	10,046	4,370
Half-time do. - - - -	107	53	2,158	642
	1,108	1,623	100,692	55,859
Denominational schools - - -				
Church of England - -	67	168	15,724	8,109
Roman Catholic - - - -	83	196	16,191	8,154
Presbyterian - - - -	3	8	518	339
Wesleyan - - - -	6	17	1,327	711
Hebrew - - - - -	1	2	172	55
	160	391	33,932	17,368

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The totals of schools, &c. under the Council of Education were as follows :—Number of schools, 1,268, number of scholars, 134,624. The total cost for the year was 424,994*l.*, of which the sum of 351,766*l.*, was paid from the Colonial Treasury (including 2,569*l.*, from clergy and school estates), and 73,228*l.* were received as fees, &c. The total number of scholars receiving instruction during the year 1879 was 155,290.

Australian Museum.

The number of persons who visited the Museum during the year 1879 was 104,594, of which there were 67,990 on week-days and 36,604 on Sundays. The expenditure amounted to 5,467*l.*

Free Public Library.

The reference branch of the Free Public Library received 124,702 visits during the year, and the Lending branch 27,334. At the close of the year the number of volumes, pamphlets, &c. was 31,701 and 9,898 respectively.

Schools of art, public libraries.

The number of schools of art and institutions of a kindred nature for the year 1879 was 81.

Crime.

The number of committals to quarter sessions for the year was 1,437 ; of trials, 1,185 ; of convictions, 848 ; and of acquittals, 337. In the Supreme and Circuit courts there were 1,090 convictions. Under the head of felonies there were 748, and of misdemeanours, 342. The total number of cases in the magistrates' courts during the year was 53,870 ; of these, 7,611 were discharged for want of prosecution or evidence, 5,688 were dismissed on their merits, 38,828 were summarily convicted, and 1,743 were committed for trial. The total apprehensions for drunkenness were 17,715, comprising 13,574 males and 4,141 females.

PART III.

Trade and Commerce.

Imports and exports.

The imports and exports of the Colony for the year 1879 were valued at 27,285,666*l.*, of which amount imports formed 14,198,847*l.*, and exports 13,086,819. As compared with the previous year imports show a reduction of 570,026*l.*, and exports are in excess of the previous year's figures by 120,940*l.* Taking the mean estimated population of the Colony for the year, the value of imports was 19*l.* 17*s.* 8½*d.*, and of exports 18*l.* 6*s.* 6¾*d.* per head.

The following table shows the value of imports and exports from and to the under-mentioned countries during the year 1879 :—

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Countries.	Total Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.			Excess of Imports.	Excess of Exports.
		Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom (Seaward)	6,749,519	4,475,772	672,837	5,148,609	1,600,910	—
BRITISH COLONIES.						
Victoria — Seaward	1,300,382	576,328	206,779	783,107	517,275	—
Victoria — Overland	933,999	3,364,602	30,162	3,394,764	—	2,460,765
	2,234,381	3,940,930	236,941	4,177,871	—	1,943,490
South Australia — Seaward	431,882	98,808	38,632	137,440	294,442	—
South Australia — Overland	289,304	633,309	2,862	636,171	—	346,867
	721,186	732,117	41,494	773,611	—	52,425
Queensland — Seaward	1,893,976	489,099	837,558	1,326,657	567,319	—
Queensland — Overland	7,139	73,000	—	73,000	—	65,861
	1,901,115	562,099	837,558	1,399,657	501,458	—
Other British Colonies (Seaward)	1,121,769	685,313	342,931	1,028,244	93,525	—
Total British Colonies	5,978,451	5,920,459	1,458,924	7,379,383	—	1,400,932
Total Foreign States (Seaward)	1,470,877	379,413	179,414	558,827	912,050	—
Total — Seaward	12,968,405	6,704,733	2,278,151	8,982,884	3,985,521	—
Total — Overland	1,230,442	4,070,911	33,024	4,103,935	—	2,873,493
GENERAL TOTAL	14,198,847	10,775,644	2,311,175	13,086,819	1,112,028	—

The value of our principal export (*wool*) the produce and manufacture of the Colony, for the year 1879, amounted to 6,491,198*l.*, which is an increase of 767,882*l.* on the figures of the previous year. The value of wool exported to the Colony of Victoria was 2,709,736*l.*, and to South Australia 449,803*l.* This trade to these Colonies is for the greater part overland, and thence no doubt to the nearest port for shipment.

Shipping. The total number of sailing and steam ships which entered the ports of the Colony during the year 1879 was 2,391; the former class numbering 1,479, of an aggregate of 647,124 tons, and the latter 912, with an aggregate of 621,253 tons; the total number of hands employed being 51,141. Outward-bound sailing-vessels numbered 1,500, and steamships 896; in all 2,396. The number of vessels built in the Colony in the year 1879 was 50; their total measurement being 2,335 tons. There were 90 vessels registered, of an aggregate of 9,431 tons.

PART IV.

Mills and Manufactures.

Mills. The mills for grinding and dressing grain in each police district of the Colony for the year 1879 were 161 in number, with a total of 2,580 horse power. By far the larger number of these mills (147) used steam as the motive power. There were 546 persons employed in these mills. The number of these mills has been nearly stationary for the last six years, and much lower than the figures of the first four years of the period.

Manufactories. The total number of manufactories, works, &c. in the Colony which were in operation during the year 1879 was 2,499, which gave employment to 24,564 persons, consisting of 21,867 males and 2,697 females.

PART V.

Production.

Gold. The quantity of gold sent by escort from the several gold-fields of the Colony to the mint for coinage during the year 1879 was 70,675 ounces, valued at 264,018*l.* The western gold fields supplied 46,378 ounces, the southern 18,714 ounces, and the northern 5,586 ounces. As compared with the previous year, we find a decrease of 4,818 ounces on the total quantity. The total quantity of gold received for coinage amounted to 106,900 ounces, of the value of 396,353*l.*

Coal. There were 1,583,381 tons of coal raised during the year 1879, valued at 950,879*l.* This sum amounts to a little over 12*s.* per ton, which is about 4½*d.* in excess of the previous year's rate. This industry employed 5,034 persons.

Shale. The quantity of shale raised during the year was 32,519 tons, of the value of 66,930*l.*, and employment was found for 181 persons.

Copper ore and copper. The value of ore and copper produced in the year amounted to 128,246*l.* The weight of ore raised is given at 4,572 tons, and there were 104* miners employed.

Tin. The quantity of tin raised in the year was 4,759 tons, of the value of 169,470*l.*, and 1,992 persons were employed in this industry.

Iron. The production of iron gave employment to 200 persons, who turned out 200 tons, valued at 10,000*l.*

Live stock. The live stock returns for the year 1879 show that there were 360,038 horses, 2,914,210 horned cattle, 29,043,392 sheep, and 256,026 pigs. As compared with the previous year, we find an increase in each kind of stock as follows:—Horses, 23,570; horned cattle, 142,627; sheep, 5,076,339; and pigs, 35,706.

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* The number of hands employed in one mine not given.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Agriculture.

From the returns of agriculture it will be seen there were 39,918 holders of land of one acre and upwards. The total area of holding was 22,721,603 acres, of which 20,579,079 acres were freehold and 2,142,524 acres were leasehold. The area of leaseholds is exclusive of land leased from the Crown.

The extent of land in cultivation comprised 635,641 acres. Land enclosed but not in cultivation embraced an area of 17,578,389 acres, and unenclosed land an area of 4,507,573 acres. The area set apart for each kind of crop under mentioned and the produce was as follows :—

	Area.	Produce.
	Acres.	
Wheat - For grain - -	233,368	3,613,266 bushels.
Wheat - For hay -	25,280	32,943 tons.
Maize - For grain - -	135,034	4,761,856 bushels.
Maize - Green fodder -	2,146	
Barley - For grain - -	6,130	131,541 bushels.
Barley - For hay - -	1,838	2,395 tons.
Barley - For green fodder -	2,784	
Oats - For grain - -	23,883	516,937 bushels.
Oats - For hay - -	67,876	84,915 tons.
Oats - For green fodder -	1,933	
Rye - For grain - -	1,016	16,873 bushels.
Rye - For green fodder -	793	
Sown grasses - For hay - -	17,418	42,510 tons.
Sown grasses - For green fodder -	53,671	

The number of acres set apart for the cultivation of the following crops was :—potatoes, 19,271 acres; tobacco, 592 acres; sorghum and imphee, 2,954 acres; sugar-cane, 7,778 acres; arrowroot, 25 acres; vineyards occupied 4,266 acres; orangeries, 5,106 acres; gardens and orchards, 18,130 acres. The yield of potatoes amounted to 62,228 tons, and of tobacco to 696,793 lbs. The weight of sugar-cane grown was 1,522,390 cwt., and arrowroot produced 38,531 lbs. The quantity of wine and brandy manufactured was 733,576 gallons and 4,186 gallons respectively, being the produce of 3,091 acres of vines. There were 764 acres of vines used for table purposes, the quantity obtained being 1,017 tons. Orangeries yielded 2,763,811 dozens.

PART VI.

Monetary and Financial

Rates of interest, coin, bullion, &c.

The rates of interest allowed to depositors by the banks in the year 1879 varied from 4 to 4½ and 5 per cent. for three months for six months the rates ranged from 5 to 5½ and 6 per cent. and for 12 months from 6 to 6½ and 7 cent. One banking institution returns its rates for the year from 3 to 7 per cent. The

NEW SOUTH WALES.

total amount of coin and bullion in the Sydney branch of the Royal Mint and banks of the Colony on 31st December 1879 was 3,177,583. Of this sum, coin represents 3,102,345*l.* and the value of bullion is given as 75,238*l.* The value of notes of the several banks of the Colony in circulation on the 31st December amounted to 1,228,056*l.*

New South Wales Savings' Bank.

The return of the New South Wales Savings' Bank for the year 1879 shows a business amounting to 1,590,000*l.* The Sydney depositors numbered 27,584, with a total amount of 1,125,556*l.* to their credit. The amount to credit of 7,105 country depositors was 285,349*l.* The total amount to credit of all depositors was 1,410,905*l.* The rate of interest paid to depositors on amounts not exceeding 100*l.* was 6 per cent. per annum, and the same rate was charged for money lent on mortgage.

Government savings' banks.

At the close of the year 1879 there were 173 Government savings' banks in the Colony. The total balance to credit of depositors amounted to 511,357*l.* This return gives the names of the various branches, date of establishment, number of accounts opened and closed during the year, and number and amount of deposits and withdrawals.

Railways.

The railway returns for the year 1879 show that the total length of miles of railway was 734½. The total earnings for the year is stated to have amounted to 952,366*l.*, and the expenditure for working expenses, 604,721*l.*, which leaves the net earnings at 347,645*l.* The tramway from the Redfern Station to Hunter Street was in work during the last four months of the year. The number of passengers carried was 443,341; the total earnings amounted to 4,416*l.*, and the working expenses were 2,278*l.*, leaving the sum of 2,138*l.* as the net amount earned.

Electric telegraphs.

The number of telegraph stations in the Colony at the end of the year 1879 was 273. Telegrams forwarded from these stations during the year numbered 1,175,218, for which the sum of 103,033*l.* was received. The total number of miles of wire constructed was 12,426.

Post Office.

For the year 1879 we find the number of post offices was 884, and there were also 101 receiving offices. The number of persons employed was 1,452, and the extent of postal lines reached 21,368 miles. The number of letters which passed through was 19,407,300, of which foreign letters numbered 2,442,700; inland, 13,772,600; and town, 3,192,000. The figures for newspapers are as follows:—Foreign, 2,020,000; inland 9,447,100; total, 11,467,100. The number of packets and book parcels carried was 595,500. The total income amounted to 171,367*l.*, which sum includes the amount of postage contributions of the United Kingdom and the Australian Colonies to the cost of ocean mail subsidy. The expenditure is set down as 263,788*l.*, which includes the estimated outstanding liabilities of the year.

Money orders.

The money order department has been more than doubled during the last 10 years. The number of orders issued in the year 1879 was 159,897, representing the sum of 582,423*l.*

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Immigration. The number of immigrants introduced by the Government and those who arrived under the assisted immigration regulations was 5,731. The total outlay in the year, on behalf of immigration, amounted to 103,765*l.* The various sums which make up this amount are as follows:—Expenses in England in connexion with immigration, 38,546*l.*; gratuities to surgeon superintendents and others, 6,073*l.*; lodging, maintenance, and conveyance, and other expenses of immigrants after arrival, 2,647*l.*; immigration remittances, &c., 21,982*l.*; passage money, 34,187*l.*; quarantine expenses, 15*l.*; miscellaneous, 315*l.*

Military expenditure. The general total amount expended for military purposes in the year 1879 was 125,579*l.*, which was distributed as follows:—repairs to buildings and completion of fortifications, 40,718*l.*; support of permanent and volunteer military forces, 76,272*l.* For naval purposes, 8,589*l.*

Local revenues. Under the head of local revenues will be found an abstract of receipts and expenditure of the Municipal Council of the City of Sydney for the year 1879; also, estimated value and annual value of rateable property in the several boroughs and municipal districts of the Colony, &c.; and a return showing the receipts and disbursements of road trusts.

PART VII.

Miscellaneous.

Public works, Railways, Electric telegraphs. The expenditure on railways for the year 1879 amounted to 1,155,136*l.* The total cost of the railways of the Colony to the 31st December 1879 was 11,432,987*l.* The sum of 19,109*l.* was expended during the year on telegraph lines.

Roads and bridges. The amount expended on the roads and bridges of the Colony in the year 1879 was 650,929*l.*

Harbours and rivers. The harbours and rivers department show a total outlay of 247,110*l.* for the year under review. The sum of 1,018,261*l.* had been spent up to 31st December 1879.

Public buildings. During the year 1879 we find the Colonial Architect expended 619,862*l.* on the various public buildings of the Colony, and a further sum of 13,884*l.* is shown to have been expended on furniture.

Real and leasehold estates. The return of the number and amount of transactions in real and leasehold estates, &c. registered in the Colony during the year 1879 shows that there were 10,556 deeds registered. Of this number there were 9,073, representing an amount of 5,275,402*l.*, also 402 leases, for a period of over three years; the year yearly rental of which amounted to 68,599*l.* Assignments for creditors numbered 56, and other miscellaneous deeds 1,025.

Mortgages, &c. The number of mortgages registered in the year was 2,809, securing in the aggregate the sum of 2,461,964*l.* Discharges of mortgages numbered 1,235, and represented the sum of 868,524*l.*, and there were 223 conveyances under mortgage to the amount of 131,510*l.*

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Liens on wool.

The number of preferable liens on wool registered in the year was 1,246, securing the sum of 1,005,118*l.*, the security consisting of 6,602,742 sheep.

Mortgages on live stock, &c.

The registration of live stock mortgages shows that there were 925 in the year, for which the security given was 3,538,161 sheep, 128,685 cattle, and 9,564 horses; the total amount lent being 2,268,850*l.* The discharges of mortgages on live stock were 161 in number, for an amount of 1,247,708*l.*

Liens on growing crops.

Liens on growing crops shows a very largely increased amount of business. The total transactions for the year 1879 were 778, which secured the sum of 55,869*l.*

Real property.

The number of applications to bring land under the provisions of the Real Property Act (26 Vic. No. 9) during the year 1879 was 138, which is rather less than one half of the number received 10 years since. The total amount of revenue was 8,440*l.*, of which sum 327*l.* was received on account of the declared value of properties described in applications. The Commissioners' fund received 200*l.*, and the balance, 7,912*l.*, was paid into consolidated revenue. The number of dealings registered under the Real Property Act during the year was 6,788, representing a value of 5,844,311*l.* Crown grants to the number of 19,655 were registered, the purchase money for which amounted to 3,063,849*l.* The amount of consideration money for transfers under the Real Property Act for the year 1879 was 1,422,547*l.*, and the amount secured by mortgage during the same period was 3,414,000*l.* The estimated total value of land under the provisions of this Act to the end of the year 1879 was 14,197,183*l.*

Miners' rights, &c., gold-mining machinery.

The number of miners' rights issued from the several Gold Fields, of the Colony and from the Treasury during the year 1879 was 9,721. There were also issued 387 mineral licenses, and 606 business licenses.

Publicans' licenses.

During the year 1879 there were 879 publicans' licenses issued in Sydney and suburbs. The number issued for the country districts was 2,409, making a total of 3,288 for the Colony.

Electors and Voters, &c.

The number of electors on the rolls of the several electoral districts at the general election in 1877 was 158,787, exclusive of gold field electorates. The return also gives the number of persons who voted in each district. This part of the return is incomplete, as three districts failed to afford the requisite information. The general total number of electors and voters in boroughs and municipal districts of the Colony for the municipal year ended 2nd February 1880 was 48,401.

Vaccination.

The number of children vaccinated by the Government vaccinators during the year 1879 was 5,638, comprising 2,796 males and 2,842 females. More than 98 per cent. of these cases are reported as successful.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Land sales.

The amount received from lands and gold fields of the Colony for the year ended 31st December 1879 was 1,061,257*l.* This sum includes 124,162*l.* as balances received on conditional purchases, and 171,148*l.* as interest received on conditional purchases. The general total receipts are stated to be as follows:—

	£
Under Lands Alienation Act - -	1,061,257
„ „ Occupation Act - -	212,576
„ Gold Fields Act - -	18,701
Miscellaneous - - - -	21,906
Total - -	1,314,440

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. GRANT WARD,
Registrar-General.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of the COLONY of NEW SOUTH WALES from the Year 1877 to 1879 inclusive.*

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Commitments for trial.	Convictions.	Mills for Grain.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	No. of Acres under Crop.	Live Stock.				Coal Raised.		Land Sales.	
					Schools.	No. of Scholars.						Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Amount actually received.
																tons.	£	acres.	£
1877	662,212	23,851	4,994	9,869	1,695	138,267	1,411	817	163	11,911	546,556	328,150	2,746,385	20,962,244	191,677	1,444,271	858,998	2,230,883 1,699,816	2,967,857
1878	693,743	25,328	5,317	10,763	1,744	148,788	1,740	986	165	13,892	613,642	336,468	2,771,583	23,967,053	220,320	1,575,497	915,228	1,214,756 †1588248	2,076,011
1879	734,282	26,933	5,391	10,200	1,819	155,290	1,743	1,090	161	13,237	635,641	360,038	2,914,210	29,043,392	256,026	1,583,381	950,879	483,227 ‡924,136	1,386,687

* The statistics for several previous years will be found printed at pages 107 and 108 of Command Paper [C.-2273] of 1879.
† Lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861."
‡ Price of land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per acre.
The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre, 1840-2; (20*s.* in Port Phillip in 1841); 20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time.
In 1822-3-4-5 the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money; generally in Spanish dollars.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of the COLONY of NEW SOUTH WALES from the Year 1877 to 1879 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the Produce of the Colony.*									Value of Total Imports.*	Value of Total Exports.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Oil, &c. Value.	Gold.†		Coal.							
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.			General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
					lbs.	£	cwt.	£	£	ozs.	£	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1877	2,361	1,136,206	2,301	1,101,775	102,150,246	5,256,038	90,169‡	147,790‡	2,842	468,518	1,824,188	915,727	648,977	14,606,594‡	13,125,819‡	7,541,583§	1,025,839	6,984,462§	1,020,877
1878	2,469	1,267,374	2,387	1,192,130	111,833,017	5,723,316	60,035‡	96,076‡	1,846	436,766	1,699,953	1,006,420	708,406	14,768,873‡	12,965,879‡	6,708,047§ ‖	750,095	7,152,479§ ¶	1,018,276
1879	2,391	1,268,377	2,396	1,272,347	123,710,450	6,491,198	148,849‡	215,854‡	483	178,806	696,327	998,049	694,707	14,198,847‡	13,086,819‡	7,406,557§ **	2,426,918 ††	8,008,394 ‡‡	2,164,171 **

* Exclusive of the overland traffic.
† Includes the gold received at the Mint from other Colonies and converted into bars and coin.
‡ Inclusive of the overland traffic.
§ Includes Trust Fund, Treasury Bills, &c.
‖ Includes 200,000*l.* repaid in part to the Consolidated Revenue Fund advanced to Loan Fund.
¶ Includes advances from Consolidated Revenue Fund to Loan Fund 550,000*l.*
** Includes repayment in part of advances made to the General Loans Account to the extent of 906,188*l.*
†† Includes advances from Consolidated Revenue Fund, 250,000*l.*, and advances by Bank of New South Wales on account of the late loan, 400,000*l.*
‡‡ Includes advances to General Loan Fund, 250,000*l.*, and repayment of advances from Consolidated Revenue Fund, 3,308*l.*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 2.

Governor Sir W. C. F. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Perth,
July 15, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Western Australia for 1880, with a covering report from the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM C. F. ROBINSON.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 12, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Blue Book for the year 1880, and beg to offer the following remarks on the progress of the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GIFFORD,
Colonial Secretary.

Governor Sir W. C. F. Robinson.

Taxes and Duties.

There was not any alteration from that of the previous year.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year was estimated at 181,560*l.*, including 11,250*l.* Imperial grant-in-aid. The actual revenue received was 180,049*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, which compared with that of 1879 shows a decrease of 16,265*l.*; this is accountable for in the following manner:—

In 1879 large refunds were made from loan to general revenue for advances on account of works undertaken pending the floating of the 1878 loan.

There were increases on the following: customs 7,181*l.*, harbour dues 1,092*l.*, land 2,353*l.*, transfer duties 354*l.*, postage and

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

telegraph 2,514*l.*, Rottnest produce 265*l.*, railway receipts 1,309*l.*, interest 1,070*l.*, and miscellaneous 502*l.*

It will be seen that the revenue has fallen off from that of the previous year in the following: rents 94*l.*, licenses 3,341*l.*, fines, &c. 166*l.*, fees of office 60*l.*, sale of property 128*l.*, reimbursements in aid 104*l.*, refunds 25,506*l.*, special receipts 102*l.*, guano 2,408*l.* Imperial grant 1,000*l.*

The decrease in licenses is consequent upon the amount paid in 1880 being brought to account in 1879. The 25,506*l.* under the head of refunds was in consequence of the large amount recouped to general revenue from the loan of 1878.

Royalties on guano have decreased considerably owing to no licenses being issued, litigation pending. The other items need not be referred to as the several amounts are small, and of a fluctuating, uncertain nature.

Expenditure.

The expenditure was estimated at 180,281*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, and the actual was 204,337*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, being an excess over the original estimate of 24,056*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* This sum was made up by 15,535*l.* 16*s.* being paid over and above the amount provided for by the Law of 1878 for the completion of the Northern Railway, by 4,776*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* awarded in the Palmer Arbitration Case, whilst the travelling expenses of officials was 649*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, and an overdraught of 1,028*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* was incurred under the head of medical department, accountable chiefly under lunatic asylum; these with many other smaller sums complete the total.

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony in 1880 was 361,000*l.*, the last loan raised was in 1878 for the construction of the Eastern Railway, for completion of the Northern railway, for roads and for public works, being at the rate of about 12*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* per head, deducting convicts from the calculation.

Military Establishment.

The expenditure on this head from Imperial funds, ceased during the course of the year, the establishment being broken up, and at the close of the year was confined to the payment of naval and military pensioners.

Railways and Works.

The first section of the Eastern Railway was nearly completed, the passenger stations, sidings, and workshops being in a most forward state together with the rolling stock. The gauge of the tramway on the Fremantle Jetties being changed to that of the railway in order that the whole system might be connected. The length of the railway is 20 miles, and connects Guildford and

Perth with the seaport. The Northern line, which is 34 miles in length, was open for traffic throughout the year, and produced a revenue of 2,872*l.* or an excess of 872*l.* over the estimate, notwithstanding the dullness of the lead and copper markets for which the line was principally established.

There is accordingly reasonable grounds for believing that it will ultimately pay. The public works were confined to works of a minor nature and the repair of public buildings.

Legislation.

The following Acts and amendments were passed during the session:—

No. 1. "An Act to provide for the relief and return to Western Australia of shipwrecked Colonial seamen."

No. 2. "Census Act."

No. 3. An Act to amend "The Police Ordnance, 1879."

No. 4. An Act to repeal portions of "The Public Officers' Act, 1879."

No. 5. An Act for preventing the introduction of insects, or of matter destructive to vegetation.

No. 6. Amendment of "The District Roads Act, 1871."

No. 7. Amendment of "Jury Act, 1871."

No. 8. Amendment of "Scab Act, 1879."

No. 9. An Act to consolidate and amend the laws relicensing of public-houses, &c.

No. 10. An Act to make better provision for the administration of justice.

No. 11. Amending "The Municipal Institutions Act, 1876."

No. 12. An Act to enable the Perth Working Men's Association to raise money on mortgage.

No. 13. The Appropriation Act.

No. 14. A second Appropriation Act.

Population

It is a matter of considerable difficulty to arrive at a trustworthy estimate of the population, which is ever fluctuating. At the end of 1879 the population was 28,668, and at the end of 1880 was 29,019 showing an increase of 351. Under the system of assisted immigration 577 persons were introduced, whilst 777 departures occurred from the Colony.

Imports.

The value of goods imported in 1880 was 353,669*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, against 407,299*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, showing a decrease of 53,629*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*

An inspection of these figures discloses the fact that in 1879 thee was a great falling off in the importation of free goods under the old tariff which now carry ad valorem duty, whilst over-

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

trading in 1879 caused a slight decrease in nearly all heads of imports, and the Tea ships which should have arrived in 1878 did not do so until 1879, which caused a very great excess of duty that year.

Exports.

The value of goods exported in 1880 was 499,183*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, against 447,983*l.* 10*s.* in 1879, showing an increase of 51,199*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* The excessive increase was caused by one of the wool ships having cleared out twice during the year, in January and again in December.

Many of the heads show a large increase, and this must be considered most satisfactory.

Sandalwood increased from 35,000*l.* in 1879 to 51,970*l.* in 1880, skins 1,594*l.* to 2,947*l.* Sharks Bay Shells 1,880*l.* to 3,550*l.*

Shipping.

The number of ships inwards in 1880 was 165, and the gross tonnage 123,985 tons. The ships that cleared out were 168, and their gross tonnage amounted to 126,444 tons. The increase of tonnage inwards shows it to have been 39,034 tons in excess of that of the previous year, and the outward tonnage 41,358 over that of 1879.

Education.

During the year 1880 the number of Government elementary schools exceeded that of 1879 by one, but from various causes the quarterly average attendance was exactly the same, and the annual average 25 less. In the assisted schools the quarterly and annual average attendance is less than in 1879 This decrease in the attendance is attributable to an epidemic which visited the Colony and the country districts severely, and which kept many children away from school for weeks at a time, and also the scarcity of labour during the harvest months, which obliged many parents to employ their boys in the fields, instead of sending them to school. There were 10 provisional schools in operation; 5 qualified themselves by maintaining an average sufficient to enable the Central Board to recognise them as Government Schools, one was closed from paucity of attendance, and four continued open. The cost per head in the Government Schools was 11¼*d.* more than the year 1879, and in the assisted schools 2*s.* less.

Agricultural.

The agricultural returns show an increase of 7,471 acres during the past year, under cultivation. Wheat shows an acreage of 1,924 over that of the previous year.

During the year the amount realised by sale of land was as follows: town and suburban 574*l.*, rural 3,984*l.*, and the number

of acres under lease for pastoral purposes was 43,773, 566 acres, at a rental of 30,179*l.*, showing an increase on the previous year's transactions of 2,447*l.* A market is much required for cereals, the export trade languishing on account of it being tried unsuccessfully in previous years; an increase of population is much required to further the consumption of bread stuffs. The pastoral lands between the Murchison and Nickol Bay are fast becoming occupied; the supply of water being the only detriment at present to the peaceful occupation; it is hoped however that with the assistance of scoops and other mechanical contrivances the difficulties now in existence will shortly be overcome. A perusal will show that the number of sheep, horses, cattle, goats, and pigs have increased 121,857, 2,157, 3,102, 1,647, and 3,835 respectively.

In last year's Blue Book the Irwin sheep return was omitted, which presumably must account for the large numbers shown in comparison with that of the previous year.

Manufactories, Mines, and Fisheries.

There is little or no alteration from that of last year, in regard to the two first. As regards the latter, there were 44 vessels engaged in the pearling on the north-west coast; the quantity of shells exported being 242½ tons, at a value of 36,375*l.*, being an average of 150*l.* per ton, for which export duty of 4*l.* per ton is levied.

Convict Establishment.

The convicts are decreasing through death, expiration of sentence, &c., and the numbers are 80 below the return furnished last year, as 461 alone remain.

Criminal Statistics.

There is a marked decrease in the number of offences in comparison with the previous year.

In 1879 there were 6,471 offences and 3,066 offenders, while in 1880 there were 5,577 offences and 2,829 offenders, 1,381 of these belonged to the bonded class.

Drunkenness is the most prevalent crime, but is principally confined to habitual drunkards.

There were 218 aboriginals convicted during the year, the principal offences being drunkenness, larceny, and breaches of the Masters and Servants Act.

Public Health.

The public health continues most favourable; with the exception of a visitation of influenza, there was a marked diminution of zymotic disease.

A most noticeable feature is the small rate of mortality amongst infants, in 1879 11½ per cent. died before a year old, while in 1880

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

the proportion was 7½ per cent., showing a decrease of 4 per cent. Owing to lack of funds nothing has been done towards attaining a state of sanitary efficiency in the city which might easily be effected.

Roads.

The main roads throughout the Colony, together with the bridges, were repaired under the Loan Act of 1878, the minor roads being kept in repair by the District Roads Boards.

Concluding Remarks.

The material condition and prosperity of the Colony continues to increase, and the extension gradually of internal communication will force the country into a more prominent position.

(Signed) GIFFORD,
Colonial Secretary.

FIJI.

No. 3.

FIJI.

Governor Sir A. H. GORDON, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Nasova, Fiji,
July 8, 1880.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to the report from the Commissioners for this Colony at the recent International Exhibition in Sydney, written after its close, your Lordship will, I am sure, be glad to perceive how very favourable an appearance was made by Fiji at this Exhibition, as is shown by the very large number of "First Awards" obtained by it when compared with those gained by Ceylon or New Caledonia.

2. The cotton and coffee from Fiji were not surpassed, and the sugar exhibited certainly not nearly equalled in quality by those transmitted from any other quarter.

3. I enclose a popular account of the Court and a sketch* of its arrangements taken from one of the Australian illustrated papers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

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* Not printed.

Comparative Table of Awards, Sydney International Exhibition.

FIJI.		CEYLON.		SOUTH AUSTRALIA.		QUEENSLAND.		STRAITS SETTLEMENT.	
	Award		Award		Award		Award		Award
Timber -	2nd	Timber	4th						
Copra -	1st	Copra -	3rd						
Cocoanut	1st	Cocoanut	3rd						
Coir -	1st	Coir -	2nd						
Cotton -	1st	- - -	-	Cotton:		Cotton	3rd		
„ Kidney	1st	- - -	-	„ Kidney	1st	- - -	-		
Pearl shell	1st	- - -	-	- - -	-	Pearl shell	1st		
Coral -	1st	- - -	-	- - -	-	Coral	2nd		
Arrowroot	1st	- - -	-	- - -	-	Arrowroot	2nd		
Sugar brewing -	1st	- - -	-	- - -	-	- - -	-	Sugar brewing	1st
Rum -	1st	- - -	-	- - -	-	Rum	1st		
				Angora					
Angora fleece	2nd	- - -	-	fleece	1st				
Mats -	2nd	Mats -	4th						
Coffee -	1st	Coffee -	None						

THE FIJIAN COURT IN THE GARDEN PALACE.

Fiji, the youngest of the British Colonies in the Southern World, is represented in the Sydney International Exhibition by a small court situate in the northern nave between the United States and the Straits Settlements courts. As might be expected the court has unmistakeably Polynesian features; and the combination of curios representing the barbaric manufactures and customs of the natives, with products representing the recently initiated British colonisation, makes a charming and interesting picture. The best has been made of the material placed at the disposal of the Commissioner, Mr. E. Vickery, and the secretary, Mr. G. J. Waterhouse, whose courtesy in explaining the exhibits we hereby acknowledge. And though the court tells of "the day of small things" in Fiji, it also suggests that this tropical possession will in the coming years prove a most valuable accession to the Empire. It indicates, moreover, the probabilities of a future exchange of commodities between this group of fertile tropical Islands and the Colonies which lie within the temperate zone. Altogether in its exposition of existing facts and its hints as to possibilities as yet unrealised, the Fiji Court is an extremely interesting part of the Exhibition, and should not be missed by those who are not indifferent to the progress of civilisation in the South Seas.

Some Information about the Colony.

It will assist a clear apprehension of the present industrial condition of Fiji, if before proceeding to notice the exhibits in detail we supply a brief summary of the resources, progress, and statistics of the group. The principal facts can be compressed within a small space. The Colony of Fiji is comprised of

FIJI, more than 200 islands in the South Pacific, of which 80 are inhabited, and is situated between longitude 176 · E. and 178 · W., and latitude 16 · and 21 · S. It is distant 1,760 miles N.E. of Sydney, and 1,175 miles N. of Auckland. These figures suggest the possibility of a struggle betwixt New Zealand and New South Wales for the intercolonial trade of Fiji. Auckland has the advantage of distance; but Sydney has other advantages which ought to give her the ultimate victory. Melbourne, Auckland, and Sydney are already in the competition; but we trust the Queen City of Australia will not be beaten by her energetic rivals.

Fiji has already assumed so much importance that it is difficult to believe the stubborn fact that not six years have elapsed since the day of its annexation. It was so recently as October 10th, 1874, that Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, unfurled at Levuka the flag of Great Britain, while at the same time, in Her Majesty's name, he proclaimed Fiji a British Colony. On the 24th June 1875 Sir Arthur Gordon, the first Governor, arrived in Levuka, and assumed the reins of Government on the 1st of September following.

We quote the following from the catalogue issued by the Executive Commissioner:—

"The geographical division of the Colony into so many islands, and the small scale of the maps upon which they are usually represented, have led many to the impression that the Colony is very small in area and importance. 'But' (to quote from a speech of Lieutenant-Governor Des Vœux to the Legislative Council, Fiji, in 1879) 'it will probably surprise many educated people to 'be told that Viti Levu, one only of the 80 inhabited islands, is 'about as large as Jamaica, and considerably larger than Cyprus; 'that a second (Vanua Levu) would contain Mauritius three 'times over, and Barbados 10 times; and that the aggregate 'area of the whole is greater than all the British West India 'Islands, including Trinidad.'

"It is estimated there are 4,953,600 acres in Fiji, of which less than one-seventh is claimed by Europeans. The soil is mostly volcanic, of the richest possible description, and eminently adapted for the cultivation of all tropical products.

"The country is well watered by numerous rivers, several of them being of respectable size. The Rewa, for instance, in Viti Levu, is navigable by vessels of light draught for 50 miles; and on the banks of this noble river there are thousands of acres of the richest alluvial flats, with soil 14 or 15 feet deep, apparently the natural home of the sugar cane.

"The climate is salubrious and healthy. Ague, malarious fever, and other diseases common to tropical countries are almost unknown in Fiji. For nine months of the year the cooling S.E. trade winds temper the heat of the summer sun. Children thrive remarkably well, and are exempt from most of the infantile diseases common to other climates.

"The rainfall varies in different localities, the leeward sides of the large islands being much drier than the windward. It is estimated to average 100 to 110 inches per annum, and the temperature ranges from 55° to 95°, with a pretty regular daily average of 75° to 80°.

"Fiji is liable to hurricanes about the month of March, but for several years past has been exempt from even severe gales. During the year 1878 the average velocity of the wind registered at Bua, Vanua Levu, in the daytime, was 15 to 20 miles per hour.

"No complete census has yet been taken, but the population may now be approximately set down as 110,000 natives, 2,200 Europeans, 3,500 Polynesians, and others.

"The ingenuity, intelligence, and skill of the native Fijians, as displayed in their construction of canoes and implements of war and defence, of tapa or native cloth, network and basket-ware (out of the barks of trees and the numerous fibres), single them out as a race greatly superior to many aboriginal tribes. The collection of native exhibits in the Garden Palace will amply repay examination, and show that the Fijians are a race worthy of culture and improvement. Nature, however, having supplied them with every necessary of sustenance without manual labour, they have grown up lacking aptitude for continuous work, although as a race, and especially their chiefs, they exhibit fine physical development. The youths and younger men, however, are to some extent being trained to work, and many of the natives have now small plantations, and are cultivating sugar-cane, coffee, yams, bananas, &c.

"There are large tracts of good grazing land in Fiji, and cattle do remarkably well there; some have already been exported to New Caledonia. The local demand is entirely supplied with cattle reared in the Colony.

"Sheep do not appear to thrive so well as in Australia; but so far very little attention has been directed to sheep-farming. Goats, pigs, and poultry are to be seen in great numbers.

"The important matter of labour is in the hands of the Fiji Government, and an abundant supply is now obtained from the islands of Western Polynesia, and better labourers could not be desired. They are engaged for three years at a time, at 3*l.* per adult per annum, payable to the Immigration Department, plus about 12*l.* to cover the cost of passage to Fiji and their return home at the termination of their agreement. Boys are engaged at half these rates. Food and clothing bring up the cost to the planter of the labourer to about 12*l.* per annum.

"This supply is supplemented by the native Fijians, the younger of whom are always willing to work for the planters at similar wages; but the law limits their engagements to one year at a time, and they are of great service, as they can be engaged for a few weeks or months at busy times.

"Coolies have to a limited extent been introduced from India, but Polynesians are preferred by the planters. It is, however, satisfactory to know that should the supply of labour from Western Polynesia fail there is India with its inexhaustible supply of coolies

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to fall back upon. Many of the coolies introduced have brought their wives and children, and it is probable these will elect to remain in the Colony.

"The progress of Fiji has been somewhat retarded by the unavoidable delay in adjudicating upon and adjusting the claims of European settlers to their lands obtained prior to its colonization and the issue to them of their Crown grants.

"The uncertainty of titles has hitherto to a great degree prevented capitalists making advances to planters on the security of their lands.

"There are difficulties attending the question of the sale of Crown lands, as a very small portion of the country has yet been surveyed, and the rights of the natives have to be protected and cared for. These and all other difficulties are now being rapidly dealt with and overcome, and the Government will have plenty of land to offer for sale at upset prices, varying from 15*s.* to 40*s.* per acre, according to quality. Considerable areas of the richest land belonging to European settlers can be purchased at reasonable prices, as the want of capital to extend their plantations renders them willing to obtain it by parting with a portion of their freeholds.

"The chief highway is by water, and the advantages of this cannot be over estimated. Every island of any size has navigable rivers for shallow draught boats, and the reefs running round most of the islands make the travelling perfectly safe. A steamer, subsidized by the Government, visits all the principal ports and islands in the group once a month, carrying mails, passengers, and cargo, and in addition to this steamer there is a local fleet of about 70 small vessels, varying from 5 to 100 tons, engaged in the inter-island trade.

"The Government subsidize a mail service, which affords direct communication with Sydney every four weeks, and dovetails with the Suez and San Francisco mail services to and from Europe, so that the course of post to or from Sydney is seven days, and to and from Great Britain about eight weeks."

The following were published in the "Royal Gazette" of 3rd May 1879, and indicate such marked substantial progress that one may venture to predict that in 10 years' time the exports will grow to millions of pounds sterling, and this is the opinion of Mr. Horne previously quoted.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.		Expenditure.	
Year ending.	—	Year ending.	—
	£ *s.* *d.*		£ *s.* *d.*
1875 - -	16,443 2 8	1875 - -	41,522 14 7
1876 - -	40,524 11 11	1876 - -	68,636 10 2
1877 - -	46,688 9 7	1877 - -	64,512 8 11
1878 - -	61,021 2 8	1878 - -	65,266 10 9

Imports.		Exports.	
Year ending.	——	Year ending.	——
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1875 - -	135,106 0 0	1875 - -	94,266 0 0
1876 - -	117,478 0 0	1876 - -	103,459 0 0
1877 - -	159,526 0 0	1877 - -	140,893 0 0
1878 - -	182,627 0 0	1878 - -	192,865 0 0

Revenue collected at the Custom House.

Year ending.	——	Year ending.	——
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1875 - -	8,111 0 0	1877 - -	16,351 13 4
1876 - -	13,456 8 1	1878 - -	19,827 3 4

Shipping.

The following is an abstract of the shipping business :—

Inwards.			Outwards.		
Year ending.	Vessels.	Aggregate Tonnage.	Year ending.	Vessels.	Aggregate Tonnage.
1875	95	17,630	1875 - -	82	16,005
1876 - -	83	15,671	1876 - -	79	14,378
1877 - -	100	20,192	1877 -	96	20,924
1878 -	124	23,180	1878 - -	128	24,080

Cotton.

Cotton is the first exhibit which catches the visitor's eye. The Court contains several bales of this attractive product, which is soft as silk to the touch, white as snow to the eye. Two varieties are grown—Sea Island and Kidney, the latter is so called from

Fiji.

the peculiar form of its seeds. It is much coarser in texture, shorter in staple, and harsher to the touch than the Sea Island cotton, and, though it yields a much heavier crop than the other, realizes only about one-third of the price. Its growth has been entirely discontinued by the planters, who, of course, prefer the variety that brings them the best returns. The Kidney cotton exhibited, which is splendid of its kind, was grown by native labour in Government plantations, and is entered in the name of the Hon. J. B. Thurston, Colonial Secretary of Fiji. The Sea Island cotton shown is of very fine quality. Similar quality was exhibited at Philadelphia, where two first prizes were obtained, the American experts admitting that nothing equal to it had been or could be produced in the States. At the Paris Exhibition Fiji Sea Island cotton secured two gold medals. There can be little doubt that this will always rank amongst the foremost exports of the colony. The catalogue supplies the following information:—

"Since 1872 the price for this staple has been so low that its cultivation has somewhat languished, but more recently its merits have been better appreciated—prices have gone up in the European market, and may now be quoted at from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb. If such prices be maintained it will greatly stimulate production, especially as a first crop may be picked seven or eight months after the seed is planted, and a second crop within the year. The value of the cotton exported was in—

	£
1875 - - -	28,706
1876 - - -	21,122
1877 - - -	15,690
1878 - - -	20,700

"The area under cultivation in October, 1879, is 2,390 acres."

Of the exhibits of Sea Island cotton now on view in the Garden Palace it is not easy to speak in terms of exaggeration. That which comes from the plantation of Messrs. Ryder Brothers' Mango Island, is of unsurpassable quality. Cotton seems to have reached its perfection in this sample, and the enterprising growers deserve the praise which it has evoked. The qualities sought in cotton by buyers and manufacturers are—(1) length and soundness of staple; (2) evenness of quality; (3) fineness and straightness of fibre; (4) absence of foreign matter, such as motes, leaves, dirt, or stains. In all these respects Messrs. Ryder Brothers' exhibit is pre-eminent. Other growers deserve mention. Messrs. M'Evoy, Hennings, Mason, and Boehm are all creditably represented, though the palm remains with Ryder Brothers. It may be added that one series of exhibits shows the cotton in its various stages, from the pods as they are plucked from the plant, to the finished staple as it is ready for export to the manufacturing centres of the world.

Sugar

The sugar cane is indigenous to Fiji. On each side of the Fiji Court in the Garden Palace there is a "stool," or clump of sugar-cane, taken from native plantations and sent up to the Exhibition by the Colonial Secretary, one of which is 20 feet high, and the other no less than 26 feet. Thus ocular demonstration is afforded to visitors of the luxuriant growth which is possible to sugar-cane in Fiji. The catalogue says:—

"On the Rewa, the present centre of the sugar industry, cane is ripe for cutting in 15 months from planting and ratoons in 11 months. The average yield per acre, under imperfect cultivation, is from 30 to 35 tons of cane, which produces 2 tons of sugar with inferior mills, while on several plantations as much as 45 tons of cane per acre has been obtained. The sugar-mills are small and quite inadequate to crush the cane grown, which is consequently not cut when it should be, but when planters can get it crushed (often months overripe), nevertheless the density for the last 12 months averaged nearly 10° Baumé, while cane cut at the proper season yielded up to 12° Baumé. The sugar-mills work all the year round, and buy cane at an average price of about 10*s.* per ton. There are at present only three mills in this district, while there is full immediate employment for at least five more, and enormous quantities of cane will be this year lost for want of crushing-power. The value of the export of sugar was for the year:—

	£
1875 - - -	3,417
1876 - - -	10,433
1877 - - -	16,170
1878 - - -	18,640

"The area now under cultivation is 1772 acres.

"The great desiderata of Fiji are capital, practical experience, and suitable machinery and plant. In reference to the agricultural prospects of the Colony generally, the independent testimony of John Horne, Esq., F.L.S., Director of the Botanical Gardens, Woods, and Forests, Mauritius (after upwards of 12 months' official inspection of every district of the Colony), may be here adduced.

"Mr. Horne says:—'Every visitor to Fiji (even from countries in which the sugar-cane is the only plant cultivated to any extent) cannot fail being struck with the size, the healthy appearance, and the rapidity of growth of the sugar-cane in Fiji. These remarks do not only extend to the 'pet canes' of the Fijians which are to be found growing near the houses in every native town, but they are general and applicable to the canes on the settlers' plantations as well as to those planted by the Fijians for thatch, the neglected state of the latter plantations duly considered.

"'The wild canes (vicos) of these islands are to the cane-grower subjects of admiration. They suggest to him interesting ideas

Fiji. about the parentage of the sugar-cane, which undoubtedly originated in the islands of the South Seas, where, from time immemorial, it has been cultivated by the inhabitants for various purposes, and carried to the islands and countries in the eastern parts of tropical Asia by their inhabitants when on migrating or piratical expeditions. An experienced cane grower would at once pronounce the so-called "China cane" an improved "vico" were he equally well acquainted with both.

"'From the foregoing it will be noted that the climate of Fiji is by its nature well adapted for growing the sugar-cane, and so is the soil. This, in most places, is rich alluvium, on the banks of the rivers loam, on gentle slopes and hillocks volcanic soils of the richest descriptions, and at the bases of low hills débris brought down by innumerable agencies from the sides of the mountains.

"'The cane lands do not exist in any one part of Fijis in particular; they are to be found in all parts of the group. The extent and richness of these lands, in conjunction with a climate extremely favourable for growing and maturing the sugar-cane, ought to make all well-wishers of Fiji long for the time when sugar will be made in it and exported by the 100,000 tons, and to the value of million pounds sterling.'

"Mr. Horne then goes on to say 'that before such results can 'be brought about planters will have to cultivate the cane properly, 'and in so doing use modern mechanical contrivances for ploughing, 'grubbing, drilling, hoeing, &c.' The canes will have to be cut at the proper season of the year instead of 'cutting all the year through,' as at present. This practice he describes to be a waste of products which even expediency can scarcely excuse, as about one-half of the canes are crushed when the density of their juice is at the lowest, and therefore yield a minimum amount of sugar.

"The reader will do well to bear these remarks of Mr. Horne's in mind when considering the density and yield per ton already quoted, as they have been accomplished, notwithstanding the condemned mode of culture."

There are only two exhibitors of Fijian-grown sugar—Mr. Walter Hunter, of Ososo, Taviuni, who shows some raw sugar, Wetzel pan, from 4th ratoons, 12 months old when crushed; and the Rewa Plantation Company, which is represented by four samples —namely, raw sugar, Fryer's concretor, tray battery, and vacuum pan; raw sugar, white ditto, water-washed in centrifugal; raw sugar, white ditto; raw sugar brewers' crystals. The Rewa Plantation Company's sugar is better than that which comes from Mr. Hunter, though the latter is good. It will be noticed that all five exhibits are of raw sugar, which reminds us that the sugar industry has not reached such dimensions in Fiji as to necessitate the erection of refining machinery. The brewers' crystals shown by the Rewa Plantation Company may be considered as one of the best exhibits from Fiji, and will certainly occupy a good place when the awards are published. This sample

is worth 40*l.* per ton, and can command an unlimited market in New Zealand and Australia. Mauritius planters, who have visited the Exhibition, declare that the land which produced the raw sugars on view in the Fijian Court is suitable in a rare degree for the growth of sugar; they infer from the products they have examined that it must possess the very best sugar qualities. It should be added that the Rewa Company also exhibits three kinds of rum—red, white, and coloured; but we were unable to ascertain whether it was good, bad, or indifferent.

Coffee.

In the cultivation of the coffee plant lies one of the chief hopes of the commercial future of Fiji. Coffee-growing in the group will unquestionably yet become one of the leading industries; in other words, it is confidently anticipated that coffee will be one of the most important exports of the colony. Within the last two years several large plantations have been started, chiefly on the splendid island of Taviuni. The first crop, from trees only two years old, is now being gathered, and both the appearance of the berry and the yield per acre—380 lbs. to 450 lbs.—are very promising. Up to October 1879, a total of 1,219 acres had been placed under crop. Mr. Horne, already quoted in connection with the cultivation of cotton, has the following remarks respecting coffee-growing:—

"In Fiji there is a large extent of land which from a variety of causes is better adapted for growing coffee than any other tropical product. The greater portion of this land lies in the interior of Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, Taviuni, some portions of Rabi, Ovalau, &c. These islands contain large areas of almost incomparably fine coffee land, and enjoy a climate which is at once healthy and well adapted for the growth of the coffee tree, plant, or bush. Next to sugar-cane growing, that of coffee will in future years claim a large share of attention. Coffee-growing is now in its infancy in Fiji. It will yearly extend and become an important product of these islands. Coffee will be second to none except sugar in value; its export value will ultimately attain to about one million and a half or two millions sterling per annum. The plants of coffee seen in the interior of Viti Levu, Vanu Levi, and Taviuni were remarkable healthy looking; indeed the healthy appearance of the plants prove that coffee will succeed in Fiji beyond a doubt."

The Fiji planters now send their coffee principally to New Zealand, but hope, ere the lapse of many years, to supply the Australian demand, and ultimately to compete in the most distant markets of the world. Coffee-growing in Fiji offers a splendid field for men of capital; but, let it be understood, that the capital is indispensable, for it takes years to bring the coffee plant to perfection. Meanwhile, however, cotton, yielding its crop within eight months, can be grown. Coming now to the coffee

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exhibits in the Garden Palace, we find samples from the plantations of Messrs. Ryder Brothers (Mango), Mason (Taviuni), Rannie (Taviuni), M'Kissack (Taviuni), and two or three others. The whole of the coffee exhibited is from the maiden crop when the plants were less than three years old, and yet Fiji is likely to obtain high honours for her coffee products when the final lists of awards are published. Messrs Ryder Brothers are likely to distance their competitors in coffee as well as in cotton; but most of the exhibits of coffee are of superior quality.

Copra.

Everybody has heard of the copra trade in the South Seas. In the old days the oil of the cocoanut was expressed by rude and imperfect means, and exported to Europe in barrels. Later a more economical method was hit upon, namely, to cut the kernel into small strips, sun-dry them, and export to Europe in bags. This sun-dried cocoanut is called copra. When the copra arrives in Europe it is subjected to skilled treatment, which expresses the oil and converts the remainder into oil-cakes for cattle. The Germans have almost monopolised the copra trade of the Pacific. Goddefroy Brothers, whose recent failure has excited such a commotion in the German Empire, and even intruded itself into the schemes of Prince Bismarck, confined their operations almost exclusively to the copra trade. Indeed, taking the South Sea Islands as a whole, copra has for many years held the premier position among exports. Whether it will retain that pre-eminence in Fiji is problematical; copra may yet have to drop its flag to both coffee and cotton. The following information concerning the copra trade in Fiji we take from the catalogue:—

"The area planted with cocoanuts is no less than 9,166 acres.

"Copra, which is the dried kernel of the cocoanut, is the largest in the list of exports, and its declared value at the Custom-house was in the years:—

	£
1875 - - -	- 40,003
1876 - - -	- 45,908
1877 - - -	- 79,403
1878 - - -	- 122,194

"Thus in three years the trade in this one article has trebled itself, and as the settlers have been some time extending their plantations, each year promises to yield an increased quantity. The cocoanut tree takes from 6 to 7 years to mature, and returns are therefore slow, but nevertheless sure, and usually some other product, such as cotton, is cultivated in conjunction. About fifty cocoanut trees are planted to the acre, and in full bearing will yield an annual crop of about 100 nuts each. The acre will thus produce, say a ton of copra, worth on the plantation 12*l.* 10*s.*, besides cocoa fibre, hundreds of tons of which are exported to Sydney, and used in various manufactures."

In the Fijian Court the cocoa-nut is shown in all its commercial

forms. First, there are some fine specimens of the nuts themselves; next there are numerous exhibts of copra and cocoa-nut oil; and, lastly, the fibre which shields the nut from the tropical sun is shown in various manufactured forms, such as mats and rope. It appears probable that cocoa-nut fibre may yet come into large use for general upholstery purposes.

Miscellaneous Products.

Cotton, sugar, coffee, copra—these are the principal products of the Fijian group; but there are others represented in the Garden Palace which deserve a considerable measure of attention. Arrowroot and tapioca are grown in small quantities. The sample of the latter exhibited is not particularly attractive; but the Bermuda arrowroot grown by Mr. M'Pherson, a parcel of which fetched 10*d.* per pound in England, deserves special mention for its very superior quality. With the best machinery and plenty of cheap labour arrowroot ought to become an important line in Fijian exports. Maize is also represented by some creditable exhibits. Of this cereal two crops can be grown in the year, the soil and the climate suiting it admirably. That shown by Ryder Brothers is the best in the Court. About 2,500 acres are at present devoted to maize cultivation, for the crops of which an ample market is found in New Zealand; the other colonies can grow maize cheaper than they can import it. Tobacco grows like a weed in Fiji, though hitherto no attempt has been made to supply more than the demand made by local consumption. What is shown in the Court does not worthily represent what can be produced in the islands. Australia at present imports her unmanufactured tobacco from America; but the advantages of distance and labour are all on the side of Fiji, and it ought to be possible in the course of years to establish a profitable trade in this article with these ports. The fact is that the soil and climate of Fiji will grow anything which can be grown in such territories as Ceylon or the West Indies. Many minor products besides those already noticed are represented in the Fiji Court, but our space only permits us to call attention to one, namely, the timber. Fiji has no reputation in Australia for its timber; nevertheless it possesses some natural wealth of this kind. The exhibits sent to Sydney do not, we are assured, give an adequate idea of the forest riches of the group, yet the specimens are those of valuable and beautiful wood. A "knee" of a dilo tree is shown, tough, hard, fine grained, and in every way suitable for shipbuilding purposes. There is also a slab of vesi—a very beautiful furniture timber. A chessboard of various woods shows how much that is attractive in timber may be found in Fiji, though it does not reflect much credit on the workmanship. At present the European residents in the islands import their furniture, drawing their supplies chiefly from America; but it is quite within the bounds of probability that the planters and merchants may yet patronize home made articles.

Curios.

We regret that the length of our review of the products of Fiji precludes us from dilating upon the numerous curios that are found in the Court. Some of these bring before the visitor the wonders of nature in the South Seas; others are explanatory of the manners, rude manufactures, and departing paganism of the Fijian people. Spirit "burees"—miniature temples which were suspended from the roof of a pious heathen's house, and accommodated his household gods; a multitude of clubs and other warlike instruments; tapa, the native cloth so ingeniously beaten out from the inner bark of the mulberry tree, and dyed in various colours, according to the grotesque designs of native artists; numerous agricultural and domestic implements; many specimens of a Fijian lady's "full-dress," one of the scantiest articles of attire ever invented; models of canoe wonders, and other things "too numerous to mention."

In conclusion, we remark that no intelligent man can study the products, indigenous and acclimatized, of Fiji, without coming to the conclusion that British annexation six years ago was not a mistake. Colonization in that group has a great and prosperous feature. To quote the Executive Commissioner: "Pioneers have "met with their early difficulties, and, having surmounted them, "the way is cleared for others. Fiji now presents to the world a "promising and attractive field for men of moderate capital, "combined with industry and enterprise. There are thousands "in Great Britain and the overcrowded cities of Europe anxious "to know where they can go to turn capital and labour to "profitable account. We point them to Fiji where there is ample "room—there prosperity is within their reach, and they need not "be disappointed."

FIJI.

No. 4.

A BRIEF NOTE ON THE MATERIAL PROGRESS OF FIJI AND ITS PROSPECTS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

A fairly accurate measurement of the development of the Colony since annexation can be obtained from the consideration of the movements of its revenue and trade, and its more immediate future prospects can be estimated and considered in connexion with a glance at some of the more important articles of export.

The very satisfactory advance in revenue is highly encouraging, increasing as it has done from 16,000*l.* in 1875 to 80,000 in 1880. But the steady form of this progress renders the increase specially assuring, as showing that what advancement has taken place has been on a sound basis.

Fiji is a purely agricultural country, and its land for the most part either belongs to the natives or was acquired before the cession by white settlers, so that increase in its revenue and trade must arise from the improvement and extension of agriculture, and its revenue cannot increase with the leaps and bounds peculiar to countries rich in minerals and having large tracts of Crown lands for disposal.

The progress of Fiji as a British Colony may consequently appear slow if compared to certain stages of the history of the Australian Colonies. But if the efforts of its people have been led in the right direction and industriously applied one must expect as a result a steady but not a startling advance from year to year, and this is what we actually do find.

The yearly receipts into the Treasury have been in round numbers, from 1875 to 1880 inclusive, respectively 16,000*l.* 40,000*l.*, 46,000*l.*, 61,000*l.*, 67,000*l.*, and 80,000*l.*

The quantity and value of produce raised in the Colony has increased steadily and materially, although at first in the face of many difficulties, the most formidable of which have either already been overcome or are now fast disappearing.

Until the white settler received a Crown grant for his land he was naturally less energetic in improving and extending his cultivation, and the holders of land were unable to dispose of it without a title to new arrivals in the Colony.

In 1876 no Crown grants were issued, but during the four years —1877 to 1880—Crown grants have been issued for 139,362 acres.

The number of labourers at the disposal of the community was, during the first years after annexation, much fewer than was re-

FIJI.

quired, whilst at present the supply is equal to, if not greater than, the demand. These circumstances have greatly improved the position of the white settlers, and at the same time the natives have been taught to adopt more systematic and more profitable kinds of agriculture, so that a steady advance in the productions of the Colony, with its favourable conditions of soil and climate, must be confidently expected.

The total value of produce raised in and exported from the Colony yearly, from 1876 to 1880, has been respectively 80,000*l.*, 114,000*l.*, 146,000*l.*, 132,000*l.*, and 176,000*l.*

In the absence of some unforeseen calamity there is every reason to expect an increase during the next few years on a much higher ratio than the above, as will be seen by a brief review of the position of the principal articles of export.

Copra, the dried kernel of the cocoanut, stands at present at the head of the list of exports. The quantity grown in the Colony and exported in 1876 was 4,152 tons as against 5,168 tons in 1880. Probably about 15,000 acres have been planted in cocoanuts by white settlers within the last few years, little of which is yet in bearing, but from which crops will now be derived in increasing quantity every year. This area already planted will, when in full bearing, yield, on a very moderate calculation, twice as much copra as is at present produced by the whole Colony. Under good management, the quantity at present produced by the natives can be greatly increased by extending their plantations.

The amount of cotton raised (the article next in order in value among the productions of Fiji at the present time) will always be regulated by the prices obtained in England, as the climate and soil of this country suit admirably the growth and culture of the finest kinds of cotton. Should, from any cause, a scarcity of cotton arise again in the United Kingdom similar to that which occurred during the American war, a very large quantity could, and doubtless would, be supplied by Fiji by both the white settlers and the natives. Other articles are being cultivated at present in preference to cotton, and probably the quantity produced during late years, about 200 tons in 1876, about 100 tons in 1878, and about 200 tons in 1879, and about the same quantity in 1880, will be maintained and perhaps not greatly exceeded unless some upward change takes place in the cotton market.

One of the great future exports of Fiji will be sugar. The quantity produced up to the present time has not been great, but has been sufficient to prove that sugar growing can be made a great success in this Colony. The quantity exported in 1876 was about 300 tons, in 1880 it was 600 tons. Owing to additional crushing power from machinery either already in or ordered for the Colony, and taking into consideration the fact that Mr. Thurston, the Colonial Secretary, has induced a considerable number of the natives to plant sugar cane on their own account, there is good reason to expect that about 2,000 tons of sugar will be exported in 1881, and probably about 8,000 tons in 1882; but even this will be only a fraction of what can and no doubt will

be raised in the Colony by future development, as the soil and climate are peculiarly adapted for growing sugar cane, and Fiji, by its proximity to the other Australasian Colonies, is furnished with one of the best markets in the world, a market which the superior excellence of Fijian sugar will always command.

Coffee figures among the exports of the Colony for the first time in 1877, when one ton was exported. Since then its cultivation has been cautiously extended, and the quantity exported has risen to 78 tons in 1880. That the quantity of this valuable export will be greatly increased, coffee-leaf disease notwithstanding, there can be no doubt. There is probably not less than 1,500 acres already planted in coffee by the white settlers, of which perhaps less than one fourth is bearing, and measures are being taken by the Colonial Secretary to encourage its cultivation among the natives.

There are many other valuable articles of produce exported from the Colony, although the above will probably constitute the principal productions of the future.

Another token of the Colony's advance is seen in the shipping returns. We there find that 83 vessels visited the Colony in 1876, of a total tonnage of 15,671 tons; and in 1880, 157 vessels, of a total tonnage of 32,233 tons.

There has been a steady increase in the white population, which in 1876 numbered about 1,683, against 2,102 in 1879. Year by year, as Fiji becomes better known and its industries are extended, the population, and therewith the prosperity of the Colony, will be augmented. For many months of the year the climate is one of the best in the whole tropical world, and even during the hot summer months returns show the Colony to be very healthy to Europeans. The death rate among the white settlers is apparently about 15 or 16 per mille per annum.

The prosperity of Fiji in its material progress is to a very considerable extent shared by the other parts of the British Empire. The value of imports from British Possessions to Fiji has risen from 94,411*l.* in 1876 to 180,452*l.* in 1880; and the value of the exports from Fiji to British Possessions from 66,494*l.* in 1876 to 212,144*l.* in 1880. The proportion of these imports that is derived from the United Kingdom cannot be determined exactly, but it varies from one half to two thirds of the value of the whole. The value of the Colony's exports destined for the United Kingdom can be ascertained with much greater accuracy, and shows an advance from 35,000*l.* in 1876 to 162,000*l.* in 1880.

(Signed) WM. MCGREGOR,
Receiver General.

15th February 1881.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 5.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR BARLEE, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL of KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Belize,
April 2, 1881.

MY LORD,

IN transmitting for your Lordship's information the "Blue Book" of this Colony for the year 1880, I am glad to be able to call attention to the marked improvement in trade and commerce and generally in all matters throughout the Colony. The unwonted depression which occurred during the latter half of 1879 and the early portion of 1880 has passed away, and the statistics of 1880, notwithstanding the depression in the early part of the year, compare favourably with those of previous years and show unmistakeable signs of future prosperity in the shape of new industries and increased trade.

Revenue. 2. The Revenue of 1880 amounted to 43,234*l.*, and was in excess of the Estimates by 4,852*l.* Comparing it with the three previous years it shows the following sums in excess of each of them—

	£
1877 - - -	- 1,646
1878 - - -	- 2,933
1879 - - -	- 2,910

and in the consideration of this comparison, it should be borne in mind that the Revenue of these years was augmented by the realization of invested funds, in 1878 5,796*l.*, in 1879 6,832*l.*, while in 1880 only 1,591*l.* were realized. The main increases in the Revenue of 1880 as compared with the Estimate for the year were derived from the duty on ad valorem goods and that on spirits made in the Colony.

A slight decrease occurred in port and harbour dues, consequent on the increased number of steam vessels visiting the Colony, which are not subject to these dues, but the advent of which in numerous ways adds to the Revenue and tends to the advance of the Colony.

Expenditure. 3. The Expenditure in 1880 amounted to 37,923*l.*, and was 3,994*l.* within the estimated amount. As compared with the three previous years it shows a decrease of,—

	£
1877 - - -	- 2,006
1878 - - -	- 13,171
1879 - - -	- 12,777

The heavy outlay in 1878 and 1879 was caused by urgent public works on which the savings of previous years were expended. But though the cost of public works in 1880 was

5,420*l.*, as compared with 3,751*l.* in 1877, the total expenditure of the former year shows a decrease of 2,006*l.*, as compared with that of 1877. BRITISH HONDURAS.

4. With the exception of the long outstanding military debt to the Imperial Government of 7,333*l.*, and the payment of the annual military contribution of 5,000*l.*, which has been held in abeyance since the 31st of March 1879, the Colony is free from all debt of any kind. All outstanding debentures due in connexion with loans raised for improvements in the town of Belize were paid off in 1880. Public Debt.

5. The following figures show the total Imports and Exports for the years 1877 to 1880, and also those to and from the United Kingdom and the United States during the same period. The latter are given in order that the increased trade between this Colony and the United States, which has resulted mainly from the introduction of regular steam communication, may be seen, and to show that such trade has in no way affected that with the United Kingdom. Imports and exports.

——	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£	£	£	£
Total Imports - -	161,232	191,491	159,883	237,204
Imports from United Kingdom - -	84,540	110,798	79,284	122,864
Imports from United States	69,977	70,044	59,734	66,212
Total Exports - -	124,503	131,107	187,673	252,855
Exports to United Kingdom - - -	94,548	94,412	117,896	117,288
Exports to United States	24,228	31,994	45,635	57,469

The decrease of Imports from the United States in 1879 and 1880 may be accounted for by steamers carrying produce direct to the Central American States. Previous to 1879 much produce was landed at Belize in transit for Southern ports.

6. There is an unlimited demand for fruit of all kinds in the United States, and there is no country which offers greater facilities for such a trade than British Honduras. Within four days by steamer from the port of New Orleans, from whence there is railway communication to all parts of the United States, fruit can be gathered in Honduras and sold at Chicago and distances considerably beyond that city within a week. I know no other place from whence fruit can be so speedily supplied. Fruit Trade.

7. In the able address by Professor Thiselton Dyer at the Colonial Institute in May 1880, he says:— Tropical vegetation.

"Nor can it be well doubted that there is a great future in "store for British Honduras." . . . . "There seems to be no "tropical product to which the climate and soil are not adapted."

BRITISH HONDURAS.

I can practically endorse that opinion from an experience of Honduras for four years during which period I have introduced trees, plants, and vegetables, both from tropical and temperate climates, and I have never seen such rapid growth and strength in any part of the world, especially as regards trees and shrubs from the interior of Australia.

New exports.

8. Among the lists of exports for 1880 there appear for the first time:—

Bananas - - - -	8,958 bunches
Pineapples - - -	800 „
Avocado pears - - -	10 barrels
Mangoes - - - -	66 „
Limes - - - -	9 „

Of these the quantity exported as regards the two first-named articles is really the first fruits of land specially cultivated for the United States trade. A very large breadth of land is now in crop, and the fruit export of this year will very largely exceed that of 1880, and it is difficult to compute the amount that after the current year will be available.

I do not hesitate to say that there will be in 1882 a full cargo of fruit for a steam vessel of 500 tons burden once a fortnight throughout the year. The export of cocoa-nuts increased from 642,000 in 1879 to 1,377,000 in 1880, and that of plantains from 50,000 to 177,000.

In 1879 61 tons of India rubber (bled from the trees) was exported to the United Kingdom, in 1880 one ton only only was sent to England, and 100 tons to the United States, 20 tons of which were procured in the Colony, where the collection of rubber has become a new form of industry.

Mahogany. Logwood.

9. The following figures show the value of mahogany exported from 1877 to 1880, and also the amount of logwood represented by the ton. The cost of procuring mahogany year by year increases, and there is as yet no spirit or enterprise to tap the vast belts of timber which lie far from water carriage. The increase in the export of logwood may be attributed to the sale in small parcels of the vast estates held by the late firm of Young, Toledo, and Co. Purchasers have desired to recoup their expenditure as early as practicable, and I see little prospect of much decrease in the export of logwood during the next three or four years.

—	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Mahogany - *Value*	£52,096	£39,332	£34,541	£21,967
Logwood - - *Tons*	14,853	13,705	12,634	17,058

All the mahogany was sent to England, and the logwood, with the exception of 1,839 tons, to the United States.

Sugar.

The gradual increase of sugar production may be seen by the quantities given below as exported respectively to the United Kingdom and the United States :—

Sugar exported to United Kingdom.

1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Tons. 1,404	Tons. 1,046	Tons. 1,205	Tons. 1,733

To United States.

495	640	798	1,054

Shipping.

10. The following returns of sailing and steam vessels which have entered and cleared the port of Belize during the years from 1877 to 1880 speak for themselves ; the number of the latter will doubtless increase as the advantages of quick transit are appreciated, but in a country where matters have so long worked in one groove, it is not easy to reconcile people to change of any kind. Time alone will do this.

Sailing Vessels.

——	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Entered - - -	302	301	301	274
Cleared - -	319	321	289	273

Steam Vessels.

Entered - - -	12	18	38	69
Cleared - -	12	18	38	65

Public Lands.

11. The increase in the sale of land under the provisions of the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1879, has been remarkable during 1880 as compared with previous years.

——	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Land sold	Acres. 171	Acres. 169	Acres. 275	Acres. 1,462

BRITISH HONDURAS.

The major portion of the land sold in 1880 has been purchased with the avowed object of fruit cultivation, and I am in a position to state that a large proportion of it is already in cultivation. The proprietors are for the most part persons of small means, desirous to settle on and cultivate their own land and become independent settlers. I do not in the least doubt that by the ready means under which land can now be obtained a large fruit trade will be established, and that occupation will be afforded to a considerable number of those persons in the Colony who have hitherto had to work for others at a distance from their homes and families and with very unsatisfactory results to themselves.

In addition to land sold there are 2,530 acres held under agricultural leases in blocks of 50 acres and upwards with a right of pre-emption, and these lands are in the hands of more or less wealthy individuals or companies who are also entering largely into the fruit trade.

Private Lands.

12. It is a matter of regret that no real attempt has been made by the proprietors of large estates to utilize their lands in the same manner as has been done by the Government.

A general concurrence was more or less expressed by some proprietors in the views adopted respecting the sale and lease of public lands, and a sort of promise was given that they would follow suit, but nothing has resulted, and I fear nothing will result, unless different measures are adopted.

Coffee.

13. I am glad to report that the cultivation of coffee is likely to prove successful. Notwithstanding the great difficulties that Mr. Lefebvre has experienced in starting his coffee plantation in the western district, he has at the present time a large amount of land cleared and upwards of 50,000 healthy plants ready to put out when the first rains appear.

Cacao.

He and others are also turning their attention to the cultivation of cacao and other products, in regard to the success of which hardly any doubt exists.

Public Works.

14. In the early part of 1880 the new Court house and public offices in Belize were completed and occupied. The Colony probably possesses in them offices not to be surpassed in this part of the world. The new gaol at Corosal and the powder magazine built within the fort at that town have also been completed.

Legislation.

15. No special remarks are required on the legislation of the year. It has been thought better to defer the printing of the consolidated laws and index till after the ensuing session, when they can appear in a more complete form.

Education.

16. There is a small but satisfactory increase in the number of scholars attending the schools receiving public aid, and an undoubted improvement in the discipline of the scholars, the mode in which instruction is imparted, and the results as shown at the annual examination. This improvement is mainly due to the exertions and influence of an able inspector whose services the Colony was fortunate to secure.

Savings Bank.

17. Up to the present time the operations of the Savings' Bank in the Colony have been confined to Belize, at which town alone

deposits could be received or withdrawn. From 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l* has been the amount hitherto deposited, and of this sum a considerable portion has been invested, thus recouping the public for the cost of interest hitherto paid by them. It has now been decided to open branches elsewhere, and I believe the movement will be attended with great success. British Honduras.

18. I have in conclusion to remark that during the year 1880 there has been no trouble with the Indian tribes beyond the frontier, with whom I have maintained the most friendly relations, and so long as outside interference is absent, I do not fear any recurrence of former troubles. The year has been marked by no increase of crime, indeed by an absence of grave offences. Only one prisoner has been sentenced to death during the last four years, and in his case there were circumstances which justified a commutation of the sentence. Concluding remarks.

The health of the Colony has been on the whole satisfactory and no epidemic of any kind has appeared. I view with grave apprehension the sanitary state of the town of Belize, and I feel that in the event of any introduction of disease, which is only prevented by the most stringent precautions, the result would be deplorable; beyond surface cleaning and a close attention to such sanitary regulations as it is practicable to enforce, there is little to be done unless it becomes possible to carry out the works recommended by Mr. H. H. Siccama, C.E., and in regard to these works, viewed either as a Colonial question, or as one relating to Belize alone, I do not hesitate to say that the annual cost of interest and sinking fund of a loan of 30,000*l.* to carry them out should be considered as a mere trifle in comparison with the advantages that would be derived therefrom, advantages which, as regards the proposed pier, would be of a remunerative nature.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) Fred. P. Barlee,
The Earl of Kimberley, Lieutenant-Governor.
&c. &c.

Turks and Caicos Islands.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 6.

Governor Sir A. Musgrave, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

King's House, Jamaica,
March 31, 1881.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands, together with a report from the Commissioner thereon.

2. It affords me satisfaction to ask your Lordship's attention to the present comparative prosperity of the Settlement, notwithstanding the untoward circumstances consequent upon the unusually wet seasons of 1879, which were so injurious to the collection of salt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. Musgrave,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Report on the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1880.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The receipts of the year from all sources amounted to 6,840*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, and the expenditure to 6,252*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, showing a surplus on the year's transactions of 588*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, which, when added to the balance from the previous year of 244*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, left an available cash surplus on the 31st December 1880 of 832*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; but to this must also be added a debt due to the public chest by the Salt Pond Commissioners at Grand Turk, for money advanced to them from general revenue for salt pond improvements, of 133*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, so that the real surplus is 966*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, and the Settlement has no debt of any sort.

2. The expenditure has materially decreased, in round figures by 1,000*l.*, being now 14 per cent. less than it was two years ago, whilst the outlay on public works and improvements is nearly doubled. To this reduced expenditure in the economical management of the several public departments the surplus must be attributed, as the revenue from the royalty on salt was 40 per cent. less than the average, partly caused by the entire want of salt for the first three months of the year, and also from the effect of Ordinance 4 of 1879 being felt, which reduced the royalty or rent on salt ponds and relieved the salt pond proprietors from the payment of 550*l.*, which the old law would have given to the public chest.

3. The following comparative tables of imports, exports, rainfall, &c., are forwarded:—

AVERAGE VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES between the years 1874–8 and for the years 1879 and 1880.

Articles.	1874–8.	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salt - - - -	24,057 12 8	14,030 9 7	20,155 14 11
Cave earth - - -	1,285 4 1	1,943 19 8	2,952 0 6
Sponge, straw, brazilletto, &c. -	479 10 8	641 9 0	1,645 7 10
Totals - -	25,822 7 5	16,615 18 3	24,753 3 3

AVERAGE VALUE of IMPORTS between the years 1874–8, and for the years 1879 and 1880.

—	1874–8.	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports - - -	22,425 19 9	21,938 19 8	24,729 2 5

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port between the years 1874–8 and for the years 1879 and 1880.

Ports.	1874–8.	1879.	1880.
Grand Turk - -	613,157	102,116	452,599
Salt Cay - - -	425,757	165,536	192,817
Cockburn Harbour -	472,388	328,836	289,990
Total bushels -	1,511,302	596,488	935,406

Salt in the Colony on 31st December 1878 - 85,000 bushels.
" " " 1879 - 1,500 "
" " " 1880 - 700,000 "

RAINFALL at GRAND TURK, SALT CAY, and COCKBURN HARBOUR for each month of the year 1880.

Months.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.
January - - -	7 1 2	7 2 1	4 2 3
February - -	5 7	3 5	2 8
March - - -	3 9	7 6	2 2
April - - -	1 2 3	8 6	3 7
May - - -	7 9	2 5 2	1 6 4
June - - -	1 0	2	—
July - - -	3 4	3 1	5 4
August - - -	2 1 1	1 7 1	3 1 2
September - -	1 0 0	8 5	6 6
October - - -	3 6 8	2 3 7	3 3 8
November - -	1 7 0	1 5 4	1 3 9
December - -	7 0 0	10 6 0	3 2 7
Total - -	26 0 3	29 1 0	19 1 0

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

RETURN of the NUMBER and CLASS of VESSELS that passed the LIGHTHOUSE at GRAND TURK by daylight in 1880.

War Vessels.	Steamers.	Ships.	Barques.	Barkantines.	Brigs.	Brigantines.	Three-masted Schooners.	Schooners.	Total.
4	22	1	43	15	5	192	41	197	520

4. From the above tables it will be seen that the quantity of salt exported was 33 per cent. below the average, but the value fell off only 17 per cent., showing that a much higher price was obtained for the staple.

5. The value of the smaller products, sponge, brazilleto, &c. was also much larger, the increase being due to the necessity that arose for turning attention to other matters when the salt raking failed in 1879.

6. The export of cave earth was considerably more than in the previous year, but I am afraid the supply of this fertilizer is nearly exhausted, so that this source of revenue will soon cease unless other caves are discovered, of which I am not hopeless.

7. The rainfall of a year, by which the rakings of salt can be guaged, was in 1880 a little more than half the unusually heavy rain of 1879, and it is estimated that 1,600,000 bushels of salt, a good average crop, was raked. Of this only 935,406 bushels were shipped, leaving about 700,000 bushels on hand to commence the year with, against 1,500 bushels on the 31st December 1879.

8. About 500 vessels pass the lighthouse from the north through the Turks Islands passage by daylight during the year, and it is estimated that half as many again make use of the excellent lighthouse and pass through this short and safe passage by night.

9. Few vessels come from the south as the entrance is between two rocks, "Endymion" and "Swimmer," 12 miles apart, which are rather dreaded by navigators; but independent of that the passage is too far to the windward for sailing vessels bound north from Jamaica, Cuba, or the Isthmus of Panama, to beat up to. Steamers from Hayti though use it with safety, as the rocks are only 80 miles from the high lands in that island, from which a very good course can be shaped through the passage, and when the Panama Canal is cut this will be an important channel for steamers going both north and south.

Public Works

10. A stone building for the storage of oil, &c, was erected at the lighthouse, and the lighthouse itself was painted thoroughly inside and outside. A channel through the reef at "Cook's Hole," Salt Cay, to facilitate boats loading with salt was nearly completed, but this work and the blowing up of the shoals in the

harbour at Cockburn Harbour require fine weather, and cannot be worked at continuously or by every ordinary labourer.

11. About 300*l.* has been spent, too, from the special salt pond rate in improving and maintaining salt pond property held in common by the proprietors.

Legislation.

12. Only a few Ordinances were introduced, and were principally of a formal routine nature.

Civil Establishment.

13. Many reductions have taken place in offices and salaries, and a saving of nearly 900*l.* in the cost of the civil establishment has been made. The following offices have been abolished:—Queen's Advocate, clerk in executive branch of Commissioner's Office amalgamated with boarding officer at Grand Turk, boarding officer at Salt Cay, one keeper at the lighthouse, and the police force has been largely reduced.

14. Mr. James M. Ray arrived here from Nassau in August and entered upon his duties as assistant commissioner at Cockburn Harbour.

Pensions.

15. Two pensioners died during the year, reducing the vote by 54*l.* 10*s.*, but an addition to the list of 48*l.* per annum nearly counterbalanced the saving, and 667*l.* 10*s.* is placed on the estimate of this year.

Consuls.

16. Mr. Francis P. Van Wyck, who arrived here in June 1879 as consul for the United States, died after a few days' illness in September, and is a great loss. During his short residence here he took considerable interest in the advancement of the salt trade in these islands, and when he went to New York for a few weeks' vacation leave in June he discovered and represented to his Government that large quantities of salt were being sold in tne United States as "Turks Island salt," which has a great name, that had never been shipped from here, as the crop had failed in these islands in 1879; and this spurious salt was causing numerous complaints to be made that the meats cured with it did not keep, and otherwise damaging the reputation of these islands considerably.

17. The correspondence with the late Mr. Van Wyck is published in the consular reports issued by the United States Government, No. 3, January 1881, and will, I hope, do some good. But salt is not an article that can be branded with a trade mark as it is shipped in bulk.

18. No successor has, up to the present, been appointed to Mr. Van Wyck.

Ecclesiastical.

19. The church here is disestablished, and there is no minister of the episcopal church residing within the islands.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Coins.

20. The Mexican, Spanish, and Columbian dollar, which were made a legal tender at 4*s.* 2*d.* in the West Indies by the Order in Council and Proclamation issued in 1838, were demonetized in April last.

21. The only foreign coins now a legal tender are Spanish doubloons at 3*l.* 4*s.*, American gold double eagle 4*l.* 2*s.*, and the parts thereof proportionately, American silver half dollars 2*s.*, American silver quarter dollar 1*s.*

Shipping.

22. A scarcity of freights, owing to the quantity of steamers now running throughout the West Indies and the consequent decrease in the number of sailing vessels, has been felt by shippers of salt.

23. There is one interesting fact, the tonnage of British North American vessels taking salt from here has more than doubled itself within the last few years, from 4,523 tons in 1875 to 9,802 tons in 1880. This is partly owing to an increase of the demand for Turks Island salt in the Canadian fisheries, and partly due to vessels belonging to the Dominion of Canada coming here for freights to the United States, whilst American vessels, which are of a larger tonnage as a rule, have decreased considerably.

Vaccination.

24. Eight hundred and twenty-five persons, principally children, were successfully vaccinated during the early part of the year.

General Remarks.

25. The general health of the people was good and the death rate small, "old age" being the most prevalent cause of death. During the months of August, September, and October a bad type of fever was very prevalent, but did not prove fatal except in a few cases. There were only three wrecks during the year, and none were loaded with a general cargo, so consequently there was little trouble. A large derelict vessel came ashore here in December loaded with a general cargo, which the receiver of wreck took possession of and sold for the benefit of the underwriters. This vessel had been abandoned in a hurricane in September on a voyage from New York to the Brazils, and came ashore here after drifting for 70 days over a part of the ocean well traversed. The fine weather and good salt crop of the year has helped to improve the prospects of the salt rakers, but it will take a year or two more for the Settlement to recover thoroughly the effects of the almost total failure of the staple export in 1879.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Commissioner.

Grand Turk, 18th March 1881.

BAHAMAS.

No. 7.

Administrator E. B. A. TAYLOR, to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Nassau,
July 29, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to report upon the Blue Book for 1880, which accompanies this.

Its late compilation was occasioned by the illness of the clerk in the Revenue Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. A. TAYLOR,
Administrator.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the BAHAMAS for 1880.

Taxes and Finance.

1. No fresh taxation was imposed in 1880; the tax on house property was reduced—

Owner from 1*s.* to 8*d.* in the pound.
Tenant „ 6*d* „ 4*d.* „ „

Cash balance in the Treasury on the 31st December 1879, 3,909*l.* 7*s.*

Revenue for 1880, 42,945*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, being 1,399*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* less than the previous year. This deficiency was caused by falling off in the importations of spirits, wines, cigars, oils, tea, and cotton, silk and other goods paying ad valorem duty, the supplies on hand being large at the close of the previous year, and the rate of exchange being so high, checked the importation to some extent.

2. Expenditure for 1880, 43,642*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, being 2,698*l.* 3*s.* in excess of the previous year; of this excess 1,800*l.* was expended in necessary public works at Nassau and Out-islands, for sanitary purposes, repairs of Government House, market, slaughter, and ice houses, &c., 600*l.*, mail service for previous year remaining unpaid, and 260*l.* for improvements and repairs at the New Providence Asylum.

3. The influx of the Mexican dollar had greatly disturbed trade and caused serious apprehension.

4. These coins were declared by the Queen's proclamation of 1838 to be a legal tender at the rate of 4*s.* 2*d.* the dollar.

In the markets of the world their value had become depreciated, falling as low as 3*s.* 7*d.* the dollar. By common consent they were received and paid away at 4*s.*, or 96 cents the dollar.

BAHAMAS.

5. Speculators were not long in taking advantage of the opportunity afforded to them of making a profit, and Mexican dollars were imported into the Colony. The balance of trade being against the Colony, the remittances to the foreign creditors must be by bill of exchange or by coin.

6. The rates of exchange became high, having reached 8 per cent. and 12 per cent., while these high rates ruled the British sterling money and American quarter and half dollars were shipped away as remittances.

The want of small coin for domestic interchange became serious and embarrassing.

7. It is to be hoped that the remedy suggested by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, and which has been adopted by the Legislature in its last session, will restore confidence.

Premium on bills now amount to—

Short sight, 2 per cent.
Long sight, 4 per cent to 5 per cent.

8. The cost of demonetization will be a heavy tax on the revenue. Already the coins called in amount to $58,188, or 11,637*l.* 12*s.*

9. In the early part of the year it was estimated that there were not more than 10,000*l.* in circulation.

10. The period for redemption will close on the 31st July 1881.

Public Debt.

11. On the 1st June 1880 the public debt amounted to 58,873*l.* bearing interest at 6, 5, and 5¾ per cent.

12. Under an Act of the Local Legislature passed the last session, the debentures were consolidated and re-issued.

57,761*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* at 5 per cent. interest.
600*l.* at 4½ per cent. interest.

13. In estimating the indebtedness of the Colony there must be added its liability to the Widows and Orphans Fund.

14. The balance to the credit of this fund on 31st December 1880 was 14,411*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*

Imports and Exports.

15. The value of imports and exports was respectively 180,815*l.* and 121,429*l.*

The value of native produce exported was 100,875*l.*

Public Health and Temperature.

16. The fever which broke out suddenly in September 1879, and was then called malarial hemorrhagic, assumed in 1880 the unmistakeable type of fellow fever; 123 certified cases of this disease occurred (principally among children), with 37 deaths. The last reported case occurred on the 1st October, since which time the sanitary condition of the Island has been excellent.

17. The Board of Health by its vigilance and energy, and the Legislature by its liberal provision for repairing the drainage of the city and eastern suburbs, have largely improved the sanitary condition of the district.

18. The appointment of a Sanitary Inspector whose whole time is devoted to the duty of his office has greatly facilitated the operation of the Board, and the early discovery and immediate suppression by this officer of all nuisances calculated to prejudice the health of the community tended to the prevention of out-breaks of disease.

19. The Board of Public Works actively assisted the Board of Health.

20. One of the preventible causes of disease in various districts of the Island is the imperfect construction and ventilation of houses and overcrowding, but the difficulties in providing against this are formidable, and can only be met by inducing a radical change in the habits of the people.

21. Eight hundred and sixty successful vaccinations have been performed in the Island of New Providence during the year, and supplies of lymph forwarded to the several out-lying Islands of the Colony.

22. There was a failure in three districts, owing to the impurity of the lymph. Vaccination is compulsory by law, and there has been less neglect in complying with the law than formerly.

23. Towards the close of the year Key West was declared an infected port by proclamation, and quarantine enforced accordingly. Throughout the year vessels arriving from suspected places were subject to surveillance by the Health Authorities of the port.

24. The general returns for the Colony of births and deaths are as follows:—

Births.	Quarters.				
	March.	June.	September.	December.	Total.
New Providence -	96	103	95	93	387
Out-islands - -	343	336	298	389	1,366
	439	439	393	482	1,753

Deaths.	Quarters.				
	March.	June.	September.	December.	Total.
New Providence -	77	72	123	84	356
Out-islands - -	112	100	129	139	480
	189	172	252	223	836

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25. Taking the population at 39,162 (according to the census of 1871) the ratio of births is 44·76 per 1,000, and deaths 21·34; but comparing it with the census as taken on 2nd April of this year, the ratio is as follows: births 40·27; deaths 19·20. The mortality for 1879 was 847.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE for 1880.

Month.	Temperature.				Rainfall.			
	Max. in Shade at 9 a.m.	Min. in Shade at 9 a.m.	Max. in Sun (24 hours).	Mean at 3 p.m.	Rain-fall.	No. of Rainy Days.	Max. Fall in 24 hours.	Date
					inches.			
January - - -	76·0	70·5	146·0	76·1	1·76	10	1·00	26
February - - -	78·5	70·0	148·0	77·6	1·11	7	0·55	15
March - - -	81·0	69·5	156·0	79·6	0·98	4	0·56	22
April - - - -	83·0	71·0	153·8	81·2	0·26	4	0·10	19
May - - - -	84·5	73·0	158·5	80·1	7·47	13	2·43	12
June - - - -	87·0	72·2	154·0	83·8	4·90	10	1·90	17
July - - - -	88·5	79·5	158·5	86·8	5·89	16	1·20	18
August - - -	87·0	73·0	148·8	85·7	6·04	20	2·15	19
September - - -	86·8	75·0	155·0	83·8	7·84	20	1·98	5
October - - -	86·0	74·2	151·8	81·7	3·87	10	0·86	3
November - - -	82·2	72·0	147·5	80·5	1·51	12	0·41	15
December - - -	82·0	68·0	145·0	75·3	0·88	2	0·82	7
Totals - -	1002·5	867·9	1822·9	972·2	42·51	128	13·96	—
Averages - -	83·5	72·3	151·9	81·0	3·54	11	1·16	—

Salt.

26. In the year 1879 the increased demand for salt was occasioned by a scarcity at the salt producing Islands of the West Indies and to the exhaustion of the supplies at Turks Islands. The price rose in consequence of the sudden demand. In 1880 the large number of cargoes carried over from the Mediterranean to the United States affected prices; from 16 to 24 cents per bushel in 1879, it fell to 8 to 10 cents in 1880.

27. The Turks Islands also produce salt, the port being more conveniently situated for vessels to call, and the prices being a trifle lower may be given as an additional cause of the small demand at Inagua in 1880.

28. The question as to the best method of improving the pickle is still a matter of dispute. The canal has been kept open for some months, and sea water has been running in continually.

29. The pickle is said to have improved during this time.

30. The quantity of salt now in hand at Inagua is 160,000 bushels, and there is little demand.

31. The heavy duty on salt in the United States is still a great drawback.

Return showing the quantity of salt shipped from the undermentioned ports during the year 1880:—

	Bushels.
Inagua - - - -	225,760
Ragged Island - - -	44,271
Rum Cay - - - -	18,514
Long Island - - -	6,949
Long Cay - - - -	27,400
Exuma - - - -	—
	322,894

Sponge Trade.

32. The year 1880 was as favourable to the fishermen as the preceding year. There was an active demand for sponges of all kinds, the buyers were as numerous as in 1879.

33. There has been an increase in the number of fishermen, and several new vessels were built; those now engaged in the trade are larger and better adapted than those used a few years ago.

34. During the past few years, certain of the fishing grounds from which large quautities of sponges were obtained are almost completely exhausted, and few are now brought from those localities.

35. As soon as the young sponges make their appearance they are pulled up before they reach a size to make them of any real value. This is a serious evil and materially affects the trade. The remedy would seem to lie with the buyers who should refuse to purchase immatured sponges. The Abaco and Bahama fishing grounds (the most valuable in the Colony) threaten to be completely exhausted unless some means are resorted to to check the evil.

36. The valuable paper on the process of sponge-growing, which was addressed to the Colonial Office by Professor Lankester of the Zoological Laboratory, University College, London, and transmitted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies at the request of Governor Robinson, gives no encouragement for the prosecution in these waters of that artificial cultivation of the sponge as suggested by Professor Oscar Schmidt of Strasbourg.

37. For reasons given by Professor Lankester, the same difficulty which sufficed to put a stop to the undertaking in the Adriatic carried on under the auspices of the Government during the years 1863–1872 would be encountered in the Bahamas.

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Return showing the quality and value of sponge exported in 1879 and 1880:—

	1879.		1880.	
	lbs.	Value. £	lbs.	Value. £
Boat - - -	19,817	737	13,099	622
Glove - - -	16,866	369	17,576	671
Grass - - -	132,491	2,987	95,402	2,775
Hardhead - -	36,538	1,704	22,828	1,073
Mixed - - -	9,082	271	5,550	193
Reef - - -	42,334	3,682	27,349	2,304
Refuse - - -	1,972	24	2,414	39
Velvet - - -	101,184	8,843	128,804	10,247
Wool - - -	102,862	13,258	111,509	15,032
Yellow - - -	41,301	1,410	56,426	1,609
	504,447		480,957	
	cwt. 4,504	33,285	cwt. 4,294	34,565

Fruit Trade.

The value of pine apples shipped in 1880 was 31,114*l.* The crop was smaller than that of 1879. The early shipments were not satisfactory; unfortunately the keen desire to be the first in the market has led to the shipment of fruit in an immature state, the consequence has been disastrous to several of the shippers.

38. The opportunity now offered shippers to have their fruit in the English market by the direct steamers "Ceto" and "Neptuno," between this Colony and England has stimulated this industry.

Oranges, Grape Fruit, and Shaddock.

39. The crop of Oranges of 1880 was not large. The grape fruit and shaddock are never cultivated, there are but few trees on the Island.

40. During the year there appeared an insect which ravaged the orange, grape fruit, and shaddock trees, causing considerable mischief and much apprehension. I have examined the insect through the microscope. The Inspector of Agriculture has also been closely inspecting the orchards, and is of opinion that the insect is the *Aspidites Gloverii.* This insect is described in the "Florida Agriculturist," a valuable paper, as having long scales resembling one side of a distorted muscle shell, called by Packhard *Aspidiotus Gloverii,* the same which first made its appearance in Florida, and threatened destruction to its orange groves.

41. It first made its appearance at Mandauw, Florida, about 20 years ago, to which place it was brought on some China orange plants, freshly imported from China.

42. The insect is very diminutive, and under a glass of strong power has the appearance of a white louse. It is very quick in

its motions (its movements resembling those of a chicken mite), and conceals itself during the presence of an enemy under the scale erected for the shelter first for the egg and then for the young insect. The eggs are purple and laid in two parallel rows.

43. The insect when hatched at once begins to suck the sap, like the aphis, from the bark and leaf of the tree wherever the scale happens to be fastened. It finally develops into a diminutive fly, undiscoverable with the natural eye, except when late in the afternoon they can be seen between the observer and the declining sun, when the tree infested is suddenly jarred. The effect produced by their sucking is first to deplete, and finally to exhaust, and kill the branch and leaf to which they cling. Several remedies have been found effectual, the most effective yet known is a decoction of tobacco with sufficient carbolic soap to make a strong sud. Apply with a garden syringe or pump through a perforated nozzle.

44. Kerosene in the proportion of one part of kerosene to 11 of water applied in the same manner is effective, but there is damage if too much is used. A moderate amount is a good fertilizer and stimulant to the tree. As there is no affinity between the kerosene and water, the mixture has to be kept vigorously stirred during the time of applying it. Either of these applications has to be repeated two or three times at intervals of 10 or 12 days.

Manufactures.—Mills and Works.

45. The pineapple preserving factories at New Providence, Eleuthera, and Harbour Island, were in full operation; 18,165 cases were exported, being upwards of 7,000 more than in 1879, the value being estimated at 6,160*l.* The demand in America largely exceeds the supply, and the greatest activity prevails in the canning establishment of Mr. J. S. Johnson at Nassau.

46. Five hundred and sixty-two cases of other kinds of preserved fruits were also exported, value 233*l.*

47. The sugar mills at New Providence, Harbour Island, and the Biminis were in operation, but the sugar manufactured is barely sufficient for home consumption.

Woods and Barks.

48. I regret to report that all of the merchantable woods are very nearly exhausted, and that consequently the supply is rapidly diminishing. Logwood, which used to be got in large quantities at Exuma, is now brought in very small quantities; the stock on New Providence, San Salvador, and Long Island though never large is very nearly used up.

49. Satin wood cannot now be obtained of merchantable size, nearly all that is brought being small and worthless.

50. Ebony is now got at only one Island.

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51. Braziletto is still plentiful, but it is not worth so much a load now as formerly, and being very light and bulky does not pay to export at present value.

Holders are shipping out of old stock still.

52. For good merchantable woods the demand abroad is very nearly as good as it has ever been.

Bark.

53. There is a falling off in the exportation of the Cascarilla and Canella alba. The supplies are diminishing and being gradually exhausted, the process however is not so rapid as in woods. Very little of the Canella alba has been shipped, its value being so low and there being little or no demand for it, from what cause I cannot say.

54. The export of Cascarilla, which in 1879 was of the value of 919*l.*, was in 1880 only 402*l.*

Crown Lands.

55. There have been three auction sales of Crown land during the year, at which 37 country and 21 town and suburban lots were disposed of, comprising 1,019 acres, of the value of 360*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

56. Ninety-eight country and 27 town lots of the value of 436*l.* 15*s.* were also sold to occupiers at the upset price. The receipts for the year amounted to 645*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, which may be apportioned as follows :—374*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* on account of sales in 1879 and 1880, 70*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* on account of unsold allotments, and 199*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* on account of arrears of all sales, and payments by detected squatters.

Mail Service.

57. This service is still performed by the steamers of the Mallory line, at a cost of 5,700*l.* a year, Mr. R. W. Parsons, of New York, being the contractor, who I believe is doing his best to make the service popular.

58. The withdrawal by the Imperial Government of its grant in aid of this subsidy, so much deprecated by Governor Robinson in his report on the Blue Book 1879, has given rise to much disappointment on the part of the Legislature, who in its last session memorialized Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

59. I can only hope that on a reconsideration of the question Her Majesty's Government may be disposed to continue its aid, a proportion which is not excessive when the important Imperial interests in the Bahamas are considered. In the absence of telegraphic communication, a regular mail service becomes imperative for the conservation of those interests.

60. Two new iron ships will now be employed in this service.

Post Office.

61. The Bahamas joined the International Postal Union on the 1st of last July; but as the changes under the new system are very different from those under the old, any comparison of revenue, which it has been usual to give in former years, would be misleading and is therefore omitted.

62. The total revenue from all sources for the year ending 31st December 1880 was 1,948*l.* 14*s.* 7¾*d.*, this shows an increase of 231*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.* on the preceding year, which is mainly attributable to the increased demand for stamps under recent regulations. The amount received from the Imperial Government for official correspondence was 195*l.* 3*s.* 6½*d.* till the 30th June, when the allowances were discontinued.

63. The money order department is practically closed in consequence of the changes made by authority of the Imperial Treasury. Money orders for small amounts may still be obtained, but at premiums very slightly remunerative to the Colonial Revenue.

64. The entire amount of commissions received for money orders during 1880 was 9*l.* 6*s.* 3½*d.*, against 600*l.* received in 1876.

65. The commissions on money orders paid in the Colony were also exceedingly small, the entire amount being only 1*s.* 8*d.* commission on 8*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

66. The amount received from other sources was 569*l.* 11*s.* 4¾*d.*, and would have been much in excess of any previous year if the former rates had been maintained.

67. The following table indicates the various sources of ordinary revenue for the year 1880.

	Amount.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
Postage on unpaid letters from the United Kingdom - -	10	5	4½
„ Inter-insular letters -	16	18	8
„ Ship letters - -	90	14	4
„ Loose do. - -	5	15	6
„ Letters from United States - -	276	8	7
„ Allowance on postage	24	18	1
„ Rental of Post Office boxes - -	24	16	0
„ Postage - -	48	0	9¼
„ Stamps - -	71	14	1
	569	11	4¾

68. The table shows an increase of one fourth on inter-insular letters in comparison with previous years.

69. The revenue from unpaid and insufficiently paid letters is gradually diminishing, and may be expected to cease as the public become more generally acquainted with the new postal system.

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70. The receipts from the sale of postage stamps in Nassau amounted to 1,174*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, and on the Out-islands to 71*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, an increase of 388*l.* 5*s.* on the preceding year, attributable mainly to the new Stamp Act, though in what proportion to postal purposes cannot be exactly ascertained.

71. The weight of mails sent to the United Kingdom was, of letters 306 lbs. 2¼ oz., of newspapers 210 lbs. 14½ oz., and of books, &c., 1,758¾ oz.

72. The number of letters sent to the United States was 14,370, of newspapers 1,929, and of books, &c., 304.

73. The number of letters received by private vessels was 5,342, and of newspapers 213, against 5,530 letters and 213 newspapers received in 1879. The decrease is due to the non-arrival of vessels from Key West during the autumn in consequence of quarantine regulations.

74. The number of letters sent to the West Indies was 1,423, of newspapers 311, and books 102, against 999 letters, 356 newspapers, and 111 books in 1879.

75. The following table shows the number of letters received and despatched by the inter-insular mail service.

	Received.	Despatched.
1878 - - - -	4,708	4,655
1879 - - - -	5,664	4,847
1880 - - - -	7,070	6,104

76. The time which has elapsed since the entry of the Bahamas into the International Postal Union is too short to permit any exact calculation of results, but it is already evident that there will be a large increase of correspondence, while the public will derive many collateral benefits from the reduced and uniform rates of postage and registration.

Legislation.

77. Twenty-two Acts were passed during 1880. The following are the most noteworthy:—

1. An Act to amend and continue the Act 40 Vict. c. 1.

This Act authorises the levying on the owners of real property of 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the annual assessed rental when the same shall amount to or exceed 10*l.*, and on the tenant of the said property the sum of 8*d.* in the pound.

The moneys raised under this Act are directed to be applied for the support of the new Providence Asylum.

It repeals the tax on cultivated lands authorised by 40 Vict, c. 1.

2. An Act to legalize the consolidation and re-issue of the Public Debt Debentures.

3. To make provision for the admission of the Bahamas into the Postal Union.

4. To legalize the commutation of fees hitherto payable to the officers of certain courts of the Colony.

5. To provide for the appointment of a Sanitary Inspector for the Island of New Providence.

6. To provide for the formation of a Law Library.

7. To amend the Law relating to the summary jurisdiction of Magistrates.

Crime.

78. In 1879, 37 informations were filed against 39 persons, and in 1880, 36 informations against 38 persons.

79. The total number of persons apprehended was 2,330.

80. The number of summary convictions in 1,879 was 1,344 in 1880, 1341.

81. The number of acquittals in 1879 was 729, in 1880 726.

82. The most serious offence was the charge of murder, but the complete absence of all evidence to bring home the offence to the prisoner necessitated his discharge by proclamation.

83. There was an increase in the crime of prædial larceny. If this crime has increased, so also has the area of cultivated fields, and additional lands are constantly being reclaimed and brought under cultivation. Growing crops are naturally unprotected, but they are more so in a scattered Government like the Bahamas than elsewhere, and offer an inducement to idlers for the perpetration of a crime difficult, and in a majority of instances impossible, to detect, and consequently enabling the depredators to enjoy an immunity from punishment.

84. Strenuous steps were taken to enforce the compulsory Education Act, over 200 cases having been adjudicated on by the Police Magistrate of Nassau.

Prison.

85. This institution maintains its high reputation, its condition and discipline are most satisfactory.

In my visits of surprise I have found the most perfect order, quiet, and scrupulous cleanliness. The keeper and his subordinate officers are active and zealous. The inspector, an active and most untiring officer, has infused into the establishment the energy and life which is seen in it; he is a thorough disciplinarian.

86. The total number of prisoners committed during the year was 441, of whom 44 were for safe custody till trial or for want of security, and 397 for purposes of penal imprisonment. Of those committed for penal imprisonment 23 were convicted before the Supreme Criminal Court of the Colony; 47 were sentenced by military courts-martial, and the remainder, 327, were committed by the Police Magistrate of Nassau and the Justices on the Out-islands.

BAHAMAS.

87. This shows an increase in the amount of crime compared with the returns of the previous year, the total number of commitments for 1879 having been 365, viz:—1 for debt, 30 for safe custody, and 334 for penal imprisonment. This increase is in part attributed to the large number of military prisoners, 47 having been received this year against 15 the preceding year.

88. There is also an increase in the number of minor offences.

89. The following table shows the number and nature of the offences of the prisoners committed by the Police Magistrate of Nassau and the Out-island Justices for the years 1879 and 1880:—

Years.	Larceny.	Assault and Battery.	Assault.	Assault on Police.	Resisting Police.	Loud Quarrelling.	Profane and Indecent Language.	Fighting.	Abusive Language.	Vagrancy.	Disobedience of Orders.	Desertion.	Breaking Market Regulations.	Drunkenness.	Other Misconduct.	Total.
1879 -	105	58	6	1	1	22	31	18	34	2	5	3	1	8	4	299
1880 -	119	52	—	4	4	15	28	15	48	5	2	2	—	6	27	327

90. Of the 119 commitments for larceny 52 were from the Out-Islands almost all of which were for prædial larceny.

91. Of the 374 prisoners sentenced to penal imprisonment, 58 had been previously convicted once, 33 twice, and 156 three times or oftener.

92. The daily average of prisoners was 73·46 of whom 49·63 were males, 15·58 females, and 8·25 juveniles. The highest number in prison on any one day was 104, and the lowest 59.

93. The daily average for 1879 was 71·72, of whom 54·03 were males, 12·03 females, and 5·66 juveniles.

94. Two hundred and five punishments were inflicted for breaches of prison discipline, the sentences for which were:—1 corporal punishment, 179 solitary confinements, and 25 reprimands for the first offence. The following table shows the number and nature of the offences for which solitary confinement was enforced:—

Escapes.	Insubordinate conduct.	Talking, &c,	Quarrelling.	Disobedience of Orders.	Lazy at work.	*	Having prohibited Articles.	Other Offences.	Total.
1	22	32	6	16	12	4	22	64	179

95. With reference to the Despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 8th October 1879, no cases have occurred in

* Sic in original.

which it was deemed necessary to sentence female prisoners to have their hair cropped.

96. The expenditure of the establishment, including the salaries of the keeper, chaplain, and all subordinate officers, amounted to 1,436*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, which is an increase of 104*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* on the expenditure of the preceding year, attributable mainly to the increase of the number of prisoners.

97. As a set-off against this expenditure it is to be observed that a daily average of 44 prisoners was employed on the public roads and works, whose labour, estimated at 1*s.* 3*d.* a day, would amount to 860*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.*, six prisoners have in addition been employed as cooks and yardsmen.

98. The prisoners sentenced to penal servitude and hard labour are employed outside the prison walls in keeping in order the public roads, streets, and grounds, and in cleansing out drains.

99. The female prisoners are employed, under the supervision of the matrons, in making, repairing, and washing prisoners' clothing, and hardened offenders in breaking stones for use on the public roads, and in ginning cotton.

100. During the year the ginning of cotton has been carried on to a small extent by the female prisoners, and the proceeds have been placed in the public bank.

Hospital and Asylum.

101. Every department in this institution is worked creditably with the means and appliances at command.

102. The appointment of a resident Surgeon Superintendent and Storekeeper has resulted in a marked improvement in its internal discipline and management.

103. The erection of a new lepers' building, in a shady and sheltered part of the ground, has been a work loudly called for.

The Lunatic Asylum.

104. Structurally it falls short of the requirements of such an institution, and affords the medical attendant no means of classification and separation.

105. The Commissioners have obtained a vote from the House of Assembly last session to erect a shed for the recreation of the lunatics, a want for a long time felt.

106. The total number of inmates during 1880 was 237.

107. There were 176 admissions during the year. 117 persons were discharged and 36 died.

Education.

108. There are now 30 schools in operation.

109. With respect to compulsory education, the Board of Education in its report to the Legislature for 1880 observe that, "the "effect of enforcing the law has not been such as was contemplated,

BAHAMAS.

" for in only one of the six schools in New Providence, the Girls' " Model School, has the attendance been improved, while in " others it has remained the same or decreased."

110. This may be partly explained by the severe epidemic which broke out among the children in the middle of the year, and the consequent closing of the schools from the latter part of July to the beginning of October.

111. A new schoolhouse has been built at Spanish Wells, and at Cherokee Sound there is another in course of erection.

112. There is urgent need for schools in many of the outlying Islands.

The present estimated income is—

	£
Grant from legislature - -	2,200
Extra grant - - - -	300
Sale of materials - - -	15
	2,515

113. The present estimated expenditure is 2,517*l.* 10*s.*

Agriculture.

114. There is continued activity among the planters.

115. The cultivation of pineapples has had an impulse given to it by the enormous demand for canned preserved pineapples, operations of which are on an extensive scale in New Providence. Formerly after cargoes had been shipped there was quite a waste of the fruit; the home consumption was insufficient, and the pine-apples would rot in the fields. Now it is rare to see good pines offered in the public market.

116. The crop of oranges was not large in 1880, nor do the trees give promise of a fair crop for 1881.

117. The planting of cocoa-nuts is still carried on, but it will be some years hence before this fruit will be included in the exports.

118. The cultivation of tobacco has been abandoned.

119. It has been suggested that cinchona would take kindly to the soil of this Colony, an attempt will be made by the Board of Agriculture to test this. Seed has been sent from Jamaica.

(Signed) E. B. A. TAYLOR,
Administrator.

BARBADOS.

No. 8.

Governor ROBINSON, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Barbados, February 9, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1879, and a joint report thereon by the Colonial Secretary and Auditor General.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY to His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor ROBINSON, C.M.G.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Barbados,
February 9, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the report on the Blue Book for 1879.

The articles on Finance, Local Revenues, Trade, and Shipping are written by the Auditor General.

The delay in sending in the Blue Book is due to the printers, who have been in possession of the manuscript for some months.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Lieut-Governor Robinson, C.M.G.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1879.

Finance.

On January 1st the revised tariff of import duties came into force. This made a considerable difference in the finances of the year, as goods were taken out of bond during the previous month which otherwise would have been duty paid during the current year. The duty on these amounted to about 9,000*l.*

The new tariff will probably cause an increase in the annual revenue of about 4,000*l.*

	£	s.	d.
2. The balance on 1st January 1879 was	20,193	19	7½
The revenue for 1879 was - -	121,751	10	1½
Total - - -	141,945	9	9
The expenditure of 1879 was - -	124,889	4	1½
Leaving a balance on 31st December of - - - - -	17,056	5	7½

	£
The revenue of 1879 in round numbers was -	121,751
The average of ten years to 1878 was - -	117,919
Excess - -	3,832

	£
The expenditure of 1879 in round numbers was	124,889
The average of ten years to 1878 was - -	117,388
Excess - - -	7,501

3. Although the revenue was in excess of the average of the ten years previous to 1878, it was below the revenue of that year by 17,440*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* the cause of this decrease is pointed out in paragraph No. 1 above, and is due to the alteration of the Customs tariff. The two following tables will show how this derangement affected the finances of the year :—

Table I.—Obtained from the Treasury Books.

—	Balance on 1st January.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Balance on 31st December.	Excess of Revenue.	Excess of Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1879	20,193 19 7½	121,751 10 1½	124,889 4 1½	17,056 5 7½	—	3,137 14 0
1878	5,310 4 1½	139,191 18 6½	124,308 3 0½	20,193 19 7½	14,883 15 6	—
Increase in 1879	14,883 15 6	—	581 1 1	—	—	—
Decrease in 1879	—	17,440 8 5	—	3,137 14 0	—	—

Table II.—Result obtained by transferring the sum of £9,000 *referred to in paragraph No.* 1 *from the revenue of* 1878 *to that of* 1879.

—	Balance on 1st January.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Balance on 31st December.	Excess of Revenue.	Excess of Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1879	11,193 19 7½	130,751 10 1½	124,889 4 1½	17,056 5 7½	5,862 6 0	—
1878	5,310 4 1½	130,191 18 6½	124,308 3 0½	11,191 19 7½	5,883 15 6	—
Increase in 1879	5,883 15 6	559 11 7	581 1 1	5,862 6 0	—	—
Decrease in 1879	—	—	—	—	—	—

4. The revenue was collected under the following heads :—

	£	s.	d.
1. Customs :—			
Tonnage - - - -	13,672	9	0
Import duty - - -	62,301	11	7
Other Customs receipts - -	861	18	10
Total Customs -	76,835	19	5
2. Port and harbour dues - -	2,736	3	4½
3. Rum duty - - - -	16,926	11	10
4. Licenses - - - -	4,757	16	8
5. Land tax - - - -	4,092	18	8
Total fixed revenue -	105,349	9	11½
Receipts in Aid.			
	£	s.	d.
6. Fines and fees of court - -	4,035	2	1
7. Fees of office - - -	996	13	10
8. Post Office - - - -	2,441	11	11½
9. Market tolls - - -	168	17	8½
10. Sales of Government property -	718	0	7
11. Reimbursements in aid - -	5,232	6	1
12. Repayment of loans - -	316	13	4
13. Stoppages for superannuation -	921	5	6
14. Interest - - - -	1,333	4	6½
15. Miscellaneous receipts - -	238	4	6½
Total revenue -	121,751	10	1½

5. The disbursments were as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
1. Civil - - - -	17,172	11	4
2. Legislative - - - -	1,020	0	5½
3. Judicial - - - -	10,250	17	4
4. Police - - - -	19,949	4	0½
Carried forward -	48,392	32	1

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward -	48,392	13	2
5. Harbour police - - -	2,084	11	4
6. Prisons - - -	6,344	15	6½
7. Ecclesiastical - - - -	11,664	0	6
8. Education - - - -	8,997	6	5½
9. Public Library - - -	644	10	4
10. Medical and hospitals - -	13,844	13	0
11. Pensions - - - -	3,335	4	3
12. Interest - - - -	1,431	0	0
13. Drawbacks and refund of duties -	4,974	2	0
14. Works and buildings - - -	7,316	8	9½
15. Roads - - - -	4,850	0	0
16. Rent - - - - -	218	19	5
Waterworks - - - -	5,000	0	0
Telegraph - - - -	2,500	0	0
Agricultural Society - - -	200	0	0
Loans - - - - -	1,100	0	0
Printing - - - - -	957	5	5
Miscellaneous services - - -	1,033	13	11
Total - -	124,889	4	1½

6. The revenue and expenditure may also be tabulated thus:—

——	Customs.			Other Receipts.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Revenue - -	76,835	19	5	44,915	10	8½	121,751	10	1½

——	Salaries.			Other Expenditure.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Expenditure - -	60,820	11	8	64,068	12	5½	124,889	4	1½

7. The total assets of the Colony on the 31st December, including the balance in the Treasury, were 53,652*l.* 7*s.* 0½*d.*, and the liabilities 24,888*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Local Revenues.

8. The local revenues not included in the above were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1878 - - -	4,873	10	5
Revenue 1879 - - -	39,506	1	10½
Total - -	44,379	12	3½
Expenditure 1879 - - -	38,613	3	11½
Balance - -	5,766	8	4

In these balances are included arrears of taxes, and in one parish the previous year's return is taken as the books of the parochial treasurer are reported as lost.

9. The local revenue was collected under the following heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Land and house taxes - -	26,712	0	5½
Road taxes - - - -	7,496	7	11
Other receipts - - -	5,297	13	6
	39,506	1	10½

10. The local disbursements were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Poor relief - - - -	13,477	16	9½
Education of the poor - -	1,672	17	7½
Churches, chapels, &c. - -	4,293	13	1
Salaries - - - -	2,935	11	3
For destruction of rats - -	599	7	6
Roads - - - -	7,496	7	11
Other disbursements - - -	8,137	9	9½
	38,613	3	11½

Expenditure by the Imperial Government.

11. The following was the amount spent in the Colony by the Imperial Government:—

	£	s.	d.
Military expenditure - - -	78,561	10	3
Salary of the Governor and his staff -	4,550	0	0
Contribution to Contagious Diseases Hospital - - - -	625	0	0
	83,736	10	3

Retrospection.

12. Looking back to previous years it will be found that the revenue of Barbados for the year 1831 was 18,735*l.* 5*s.*, and the expenditure 17,651*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* A remark is added to the official abstract of the year to the effect that "this Island, which is less "in extent than the Isle of Wight, is visited with a pressure of "taxation, both as to capital and industry, beyond any portion of "the British Empire."

The local taxation for that year was 25,037*l.*

13. No census was taken before the year 1851, but in the Blue Book for 1841 the population was returned as 110,500. This estimate was made by the Bishop, who, with his clergy, took great pains to obtain correct results.

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14. The following table shows the growth of revenue compared with the population :—

Year.	Colonial Revenue.	Local Revenue.	Military expenditure incurred by Great Britain.	Population.
	£	£	£	
1831	18,735	25,037	79,075	—
1841	66,434	No return.	84,179	*110,500
1851	55,725	†12,866	102,889	‡135,939
1861	98,049	†15,706	93,178	152,275
1871	119,492	31,136	81,136	161,594
1879	§121,751	39,506	78,561	‖181,035

* Estimated by the Bishop with the aid of his clergy.
† Exclusive of highway taxes, probably over 6,000*l.* per annum.
‡ First census (taken exclusive of shipping.)
§ 9,000*l.* should be added to this as explained in paragraph No. 1.
‖ Estimated.

15. The present revenue of the Colony may be considered satisfactory, inasmuch as, with a lower rate of taxation per head than the neighbouring colonies, the revenue is found sufficient to cover the expenditure, but the taxation might in some cases be readjusted with advantage. This would probably give a larger revenue with less pressure. The local revenues also are too large to be left with advantage to chance administration.

Public Works.

16. The expenditure on public works was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Repairs and alteration to existing buildings - - - -	2,994	13	5½
Repairs and expenses connected with the harbour, &c. - - -	4,321	15	4
	£7,316	8	9½

No new works were undertaken during the year, and the expenditure under this head is eminently unsatisfactory, as the Colony could well bear a loan for the erection of institutions which are well nigh indispensable.

Legislation.

17. Thirty-four Acts were passed during 1879.

18. Perhaps the most important enactment passed during the year was the Act for " The abolition of imprisonment for debt and the punishment of fraudulent debtors," which assimilates the law on this subject to that in force in England. This enactment disposed of a question which had been pending for some time, and had given rise to considerable discussion.

19. Another important feature in the legislation of the year was the passing of the Prisons Act, which consolidates and amends the laws relating to prisons, and repeals nineteen other Acts.

20. The Public Library Act places the library on a more permanent and satisfactory footing, and will, it is hoped, add considerably to the usefulness of that Institution.

21. The Contagious Diseases Acts Amendment Act transfers the management of the Lock Hospital from a Committee of the Directors of the General Hospital to a Board composed of the Executive Council and three members of the Legislature. Beneficial results have already followed the adoption of this change.

22. The Act for holding investigations into cases of fire provides for inquiries being held into the circumstances of every fire which takes place. It was hoped that the certainty of rigid inquiry being made into the circumstances attending every fire would tend to deter persons from setting fire to canes wantonly or maliciously.

23. The Colonial Secretary's Office Act places the staff of the Colonial Secretary's Office on a proper footing.

24. Under the Bishop's Appointment Act Amendment Act the present Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands is permitted to exercise the functions of Coadjutor Bishop of the Leeward Islands.

25. Acts were passed during the year for the protection of mongooses, which have been imported with a view of destroying the rats which infest the canes, and for regulating the industries of fishing for sea eggs, a valuable article of food, and for turtles.

26. The law affecting married women's property was assimilated to that in force in England.

27. The remaining measures are of minor importance.

Political Franchise.

28. One thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine voters are returned on the list for 1879 against one thousand six hundred and sixty-five for 1878.

Councils and Assemblies.

29. Mr. Frederick Bonham Smith acted as Colonial Secretary from 30th July to 29th October 1879, and during that time acted as a member of the Executive Council.

30. Mr. John Glasgow Grant, Master in Chancery, &c., and Mr. Allan Belfield were appointed members of the Legislative Council during the year

Civil Establishment.

31. The Government of the Windward Islands was administered by Lieutenant-Governor George Dundas, C.M.G., until 3rd March 1879, on which day Governor Strahan, C.M.G., resumed his duties.

32. Mr. W. Brandford Griffith, C.M.G., Auditor-General, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Gold Coast Colony from

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30th November, and Mr. C. Courtenay Knollys, Sub-Receiver at San Fernando, Trinidad, was appointed to the vacant Auditor-Generalship. The duties of Auditor-General were carried on during the year by Mr. F. B. Griffith until his appointment as Treasurer of St. Vincent, and subsequently by Mr. L. J. Patterson, chief clerk in the Auditor-General's Office.

33. Mr. J. F. Bourne was appointed Superintendent of Public Works from July 1879 vice Mr. J. S. Tucker resigned. Mr. Bourne died 27th October 1879.

34. Mr. W. T. Armstrong, Inland Revenue Officer, District "D," was appointed Inspector of Inland Revenue Officers in November 1879 vice Mr. F. B Griffith, promoted to the Treasurership of St. Vincent.

35. The Reverend E. M. Sealy was appointed rector of St. John's parish in November 1879, and several appointments to curacies were made during the year.

36. Mr. J. A. Carrington was appointed Sub-Inspector of Schools, and Mr. C. Yearwood Secretary of the Education Board in January 1879. Mr. Yearwood died on 28th December 1879.

37. Dr. Field was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum and Visiting Surgeon of the Lazaretto in 1879, vice Dr. Hutson appointed Inspector of Hospitals and Asylums.

Population.

38. The population of the Colony in 1871, exclusive of shipping, amounted to 161,594. The return of baptisms and burials since 1871 is as follows:—

Year.	Baptisms.	Burials.	Increase.	Add one-eighth Baptisms for Persons not belonging to the Church of England.	Total Increase.	Less by Emigration (estimated).	Net Increase.
1872	6,683	4,341	2,342	835	3,177	1,000	2,177
1873	6,540	3,316	3,224	817	4,041	1,000	3,041
1874	7,175	3,631	3,544	897	4,441	1,000	3,441
1875	5,099	4,521	578	637	1,215	1,000	215
1876	6,381	3,917	2,464	797	3,261	1,000	2,261
1877	7,071	3,810	3,261	884	4,145	1,000	3,145
1878	6,538	4,590	1,948	817	2,765	1,000	1,765
1879	7,147	3,644	3,503	893	4,396	1,000	3,396
Totals	52,634	31,770	20,864	6,577	27,441	8,000	19,441

39. The population of Barbados at the close of 1879 may therefore be estimated at 181,035, or 1,090 to the square mile.

40. The estimated net increase of the population during 1879 was 3,396, 1,104 above the average of the seven years 1872–78.

41. The number of burials was relatively less than in any year of the series except 1873, being 2·01 per cent. of the estimated population against 1·9 for that year.

Trade.

42. Trade throughout the year was in its normal condition. Imports showed a slight falling off in value, while exports were above the average, owing to a large crop of the staple.

43. The following table shows the value and direction of trade:—

Value.

Countries.	Imports from.	Exports to.
United Kingdom - - -	370,808	599,699
British North America - -	100,113	208,102
West Indies and British Guiana -	65,449	216,637
United States - - -	447,869	213,563
Other Countries - - -	39,158	21,157
Total - -	1,023,397	1,259,158

44. The imports from Great Britain are chiefly linen and cottons, hardware, coal, liquors of all kind, and rice. From the United States and North America salt fish and meat, corn, meal, and bread, lumber of all kinds, horses and mules, butter, kerosine oil, and tobacco. Rice is also imported from Calcutta and mules from South America.

45. The export trade may be divided as follows:—

	£
Staple (sugar, molasses, and rum) - -	1,010,020
Other produce of the Colony - - -	1,697
Re-exports - - - - - -	247,441
	1,259,158

46. The produce and manufacture of the Colony exported, other than the staple, consisted of arrowroot, matches, and a few sheep and pigs.

Shipping.

47. The following table shows the number and tonnage of vessels that entered during the year:—

Countries from whence.	Number.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom - - -	111	82,324
British North America - -	151	22,771
West Indies and British Guiana -	702	63,698
United States - - -	148	20,224
Other Countries - - -	74	38,437
Total - -	1,186	227,454

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Gaols and Prisons.

48. A full report by the Inspector of Prisons is printed in the Blue Book. It is only necessary to remark here that a considerable addition might with advantage be made to the separate accommodation for males, and that separate cells should be provided in the female prisons instead of the present system of associated wards.

49. A new feature of the prison labour is the commencement of the cooperage, of which the profits were 73*l.* in 1879.

50. The profit or rather the saving of expenditure due to the Prison Bakery is estimated by the Inspector of Prisons at 483*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* for 1879. During 1881 it is intended to bake the bread for the Lunatic Asylum, and the Lazaretto at the Prison. A further saving will thus be effected.

Criminal Statistics 1879.

51. The main features of this year's analytical table are as follows:—

Inferior Courts.

52. The continued decrease in the number of offences reported to the police.

The large increase in the number of persons apprehended and summoned.

The continued increase in minor offences against the person.

The number of convictions in the Magistrates' Courts in 1879 having amounted to 15·61 per thousand of the estimated population against an average of 11·76 for the previous 5 years.

53. The majority of these cases, however, are of a trifling nature.

54. Prædial larceny shows a satisfactory decrease as do other offences against property.

Other Offences.

55. Other offences on the contrary show a large increase: 1,658, or 8·76 per thousand of the estimated population as compared with 1878.

This increase is due in a great measure to the number of cases for recovery of parochial and highway taxes in the parish of St. Michael, which amounted to 1,005 in 1879; 1,856*l.* being returned as having been collected by the parochial treasurer through the Magistrates' Courts.

56. As was stated in last year's report these cases are not properly speaking offence cases, although they come within the criminal jurisdiction of the magistrates.

The increase of 9·44 per thousand of the estimated population in magisterial convictions is due to the increase under offences against the person and "other offences" already adverted to.

Assistant Court of Appeal.

57. The accompanying return of criminal cases decided in the Assistant Court of Appeal shows that 590 appeals were lodged out of 10,151 cases decided by the magistrates, being 5·81 per

cent. Of the 590 decisions thus appealed against, 420 or 71·19 per cent. were confirmed, 34 or 5·76 per cent. varied, and 136 or 23·05 per cent. (1·33 per cent. of the total number of decisions) reversed.

58. It does not follow that 136 convictions were quashed. The Assistant Court of Appeal enjoys extensive powers, and cases are on record in which, after a defendant has been acquitted by the magistrate, the complainant has appealed, and the Appeal Court has reversed the decision of the magistrate and convicted the defendant. In any case the number of reversals is not sufficient to affect materially the results shown in the analytical table.

Superior Courts.

59. The convictions in the Superior Court show a net decrease of 46 as compared with 1878, and of 16 as compared with the average of the previous 5 years.

60. There is an increase of 21 under "other offences," which the Clerk of the Crown and Peace states is due to an increase in the number of cases of simple larceny, which have always been included hitherto under "other offences" in the return of the Superior Court. These cases will in future be returned under "Offences against property other than prædial larceny."

Cane Fires.

61. The return of cane fires for the period commencing 1st July 1879 shows a considerable increase, both in the number of fires and in the acreage of canes burnt, as compared with the period 1878–79.

The return is, however, considerably below the average of the last three periods, and the increase, as compared with the last period, is due mainly to the increased number of fires on the orders of the parishes of St. Philip and Christ Church.

A Return of the Number of Cases, Civil and Criminal, adjudicated by the Judges of Petty Debt Courts and Police Magistrates, with the number of Appeals therefrom, and the decisions of the Assistant Court of Appeal thereon, from 1st January to 31st day of December 1879.

	Number of Cases adjudicated.	Number of Appeals.	Per-centage of Appeals.	Confirmed.						Varied.				Reversed.				
				On Hearing.	By Dismissal.	Being withdrawn.	Application for New Trial.	Total confirmed.	Per-centage confirmed.	On Hearing.	On Application.	Total varied.	Per-centage varied.	On Hearing.	By Default.	On Application.	Total reversed.	Per-centage reversed.
Criminal Cases -	10,151	590	5·81	278	105	37	—	420	71·19	34	—	34	5·76	131	5	—	136	23·05
Civil Cases -	2,470	137	5·54	59	19	6	3	87	63·50	13	—	13	9·49	34	2	1	37	27·01
Total -	12,621	727	5·72	337	124	43	3	507	69·74	47	—	47	6·46	165	7	1	173	23·80

RETURN of CANE FIRES, 1st January 1876 to 30th June 1880.

Parish.	Number of Fires. Period from 1st January to 30th June 1876.	1st July 1876 to 30th June 1877.	1st July 1877 to 30th June 1878.	1st July 1878 to 30th June 1879.	Average of last three periods.	1st July 1879 to	Number of Acres burnt. Period from 1st January to 30th June 1876.	1st July 1876 to 30th June 1877.	1st July 1877 to 30th June 1878.	1st July 1878 to 30th June 1879.	Average of last three periods.	1st July 1879 to
St. Michael -	19	18	20	5	14⅓	7	71	29	43¼	18¾	30⅓	8·80
St. Philip - -	9	32	33	26	30⅓	32	38¾	76½	129¼	54½	86¾	95·91
St. John - -	6	12	16	3	10⅓	3	20¼	48	92¾	7¾	49½	16·
St. George - -	16	39	18	10	22⅓	7	60¾	92	58¾	18¼	56½	6·3
Christ Church -	5	21	40	6	25⅔	16	11¾	35½	76	31½	47⅔	28·75
St. Thomas -	20	11	15	4	10	5	33¼	19¾	35½	5½	20	21·
St. James - -	4	7	4	5	5⅓	2	10¼	34¾	7	7¼	16⅓	4·52
St. Peter - -	4	10	7	4	7	—	11¼	30	20½	18¾	23	—
St. Lucy - -	8	13	17	5	11⅔	2	23¾	22½	43¾	8½	24⅔	16·
St. Andrew -	6	13	14	—	9	3	17¾	21¾	18½	—	13⅓	·17
St. Joseph - -	5	8	3	7	6	2	7¾	7¾	11	22½	13⅔	·58
Total -	102	184	187	85	152	79	306½	417½	536¼	193¼	382⅓	198·06

Hospitals and Asylums.

62. An experienced head nurse was engaged by the authorities of the General Hospital during 1879. Her example and influence are reported to have produced a good effect on the nursing staff of the institution.

63. Some additional separate rooms (constructed of wood) were erected at the Lunatic Asylum during the year. A new asylum is much wanted.

64. The Lazaretto remains in *statu quo*, and although not large enough for the needs of the Colony was, on the whole, in a satisfactory state during the year.

65. The control of the Contagious Diseases Hospital was transferred to a Board composed of the Executive Council and three Members of the Assembly. The result has been increased activity in the enforcement of the Acts, and material improvement in the internal arrangements of the institution.

66. The appointment under the Act of 1878 of an Inspector of Hospitals and Asylums has done good, the Inspector has performed his duties, which are at times far from pleasant, with energy and conscientiousness, and material improvements have in consequence been effected in several of the public institutions subject to his inspection.

(Signed) WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,
Barbados, Feb. 9th, 1881. Colonial Secretary.

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No. 9.

Lieutenant-Governor ROBINSON, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Barbados, April 28, 1881.

FORWARDED. I would draw your Lordship's attention to the improved financial condition of the Colony, as set forth in the concluding remarks of Mr. Laborde's report (paragraphs 53 to 55.)

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Government House, Tobago,
SIR, April 16, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of Tobago for the year 1880, with the accompanying report.

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

2. In order to provide for the liquidation of the debt of the Colony, recourse was had, in the second quarter of the year, to further taxation. The rate levied on lands and tenements was increased from 2*s.* to 3*s.* in the pound, and additional duties were levied on imported flour, meal, spirits, tobacco, and lumber. No change was made in the fees of office.

3. Though further taxes were imposed, it is proper to observe that the taxation of the Colony is exceptionally low, the rate per head, even with the recent addition, not exceeding 14*s.* 9*d.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The Revenue of 1879 only reached 11,500*l.*, that of 1880 was 14,003*l.*, or 2,503*l.* more. To this increase the advanced rate on lands and tenements contributed 646*l.*, the alteration in the tariff, aided by brisker trade, gave in Customs dues an addition of 1,222*l.*; and the more vigilant supervision of the Excise, and the rigid enforcement of the licenses for keeping animals, guns, and boats added 520*l.* Other sources of Revenue, such as stamp duties, and licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors, also contributed to the increase.

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5. The payments made in 1880 amounted to 13,514*l.* The sum of 3,244*l.* was paid for arrears of salaries and other claims for the service of 1879, and the sum of 10,270*l.* on account of the service of the year. The Expenditure proper to 1880 was 11,786*l.*, and the unpaid claims for this service, amounting to 1,516*l.*, were defrayed in January of this year.

6. No local revenues are raised and appropriated in this Colony for any purposes whatever, but every public receipt and payment appears in the general Revenue and Expenditure account.

7. The following statements of Assets and Liabilities at the 1st January 1880, and at the 1st January 1881, exhibit the improvement in the financial position of the Colony in the 12 months.

1880.

Assets.	£	*Liabilities.*	£
Cash in Treasury chest	164	Due for salaries and other services of 1879	3,106
Balance of liabilities -	4,750	Due to the Crown Agents	808
		„ on loan - -	1,000
	4,914		4,914

1881.

Assets.	£	*Liabilities.*	£
Cash in Treasury chest	653	Due for salaries and other services in 1880	1,516
Balance of liabilities -	2,731	Due to the Crown Agents	868
		„ on loan - -	1,000
	3,384		3,384

Public Debt.

8. The Colony owed at the close of the year under report 1,000*l.*, secured on Colonial Treasury bills, carrying interest at 7 per cent., payable half yearly in advance. These bills fall due on 1st August 1882, but they may be redeemed at the close of any half year prior to that date, at the pleasure of the Governor. A sum of 868*l.* was also due to the Crown Agents.

Military Expenditure.

3. The members of the volunteer corps who obtain certificates of efficiency from their commanding officers receive a remission of certain taxes to the payment of which they would otherwise be liable. These remissions represented an expenditure in the year

of 64*l.* In the purchase of ammunition, and for other incidental expenses a sum of 49*l.* was paid, making a total expenditure on this service of 113*l.*

10. Great Britain incurred no expenditure for the military protection of the Colony. The only payment made from Imperial funds was the sum of 275*l.* in aid of the civil establishment. This was paid as the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor to the 31st March, when the aid was withdrawn, and the Officer Administering the Government has since been paid from Colonial funds.

Public Works.

11. The trifling sum of 234*l.* was all that could be spared for the maintenance of the public buildings. This was applied to those buildings which most urgently required looking after, but it was inadequate for the substantial repair of any one of them. The Government House and Court House are massive buildings of stone and brick, with slated and tiled roofs. They are, however, in a state of decay; and unless sufficient money can be shortly applied to their restoration they will become ruins.

12. The public roads were repaired at an expenditure of 803*l.* This was far below their requirements; and at the close of 1880 they were still in bad order, not having had proper care bestowed on them for several previous years for want of the necessary means.

13. No new works in buildings, roads, or bridges were undertaken in the year.

Legislation.

14. Twenty-four Ordinances were passed and became law. Two of these were for the imposition of further duties, as previously mentioned, and two were continuing for another year expiring Ordinances under which certain revenues are raised. Three were for consolidating and amending the laws respecting inheritance, real property, and dower, and assimilating them to the present laws of England. One was for establishing Courts of Inquiry into the causes of wrecks occurring on the coasts of the Colony, and another to provide for the maintenance of bastard children in certain cases. Provision was made by Ordinances for the union of the offices of Administrator of the Government and Colonial Secretary, and for the conduct of the judicial business in the Superior Courts by a non-resident Chief Justice. The remaining Ordinances provided for the taking of the Census of the Colony in 1881, for the re-arrangement of the magisterial districts, and for the admendment of existing laws on various subjects.

Councils.

15. Mr. Byng, the Colonial Secretary, was retired during the year upon the union of his office with that of Administrator, whereupon he ceased to be a member of the Executive and

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Legislative Councils. Mr. Robert Gordon, the senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council died in December. The vacancy caused by his death was not filled in the year.

Civil Establishment.

16. There were several changes during the year in various departments. Lieutenant-Governor Gore was promoted to St. Vincent, and left Tobago on the 7th of July, on which day I arrived to assume the administration of this Government. At the same time the Ordinance for uniting the offices of Administrator and Colonial Secretary was proclaimed, and Mr. Byng, the Colonial Secretary, Auditor and Registrar, was retired on the abolition of his office. Mr. George William Gordon, the Inspector of Inland Revenue Officers, was appointed to act as Auditor; and Mr. E. L. Richardson, the senior clerk under the late Colonial Secretary, was made acting Registrar and Secretary. Mr. James Kirk, the Acting Inspector of Police, was placed in charge also of the Inland Revenue Department.

17. Mr. John W. Elliot, the First Revenue Officer, was promoted early in the year to a magistracy in the Island of Dominica, and Mr. S. Cunningham, the Acting Second Revenue Officer, was appointed to act as first officer, and Mr. H. B. Isaacs, a Sub-Collector, to act as second officer.

18. Mr. Wattley, the Chief Justice of the Colony, died in June, and in September Mr. James Armstrong, C.M.G., Chief Justice of St. Lucia was appointed to act also as Chief Justice of Tobago. Upon the re-arrangement of the magisterial districts, and their formation into two instead of three districts, under Ordinance No. 8, Mr. Yeates and Mr. Fraser were retained as Police Magistrates, and placed in charge of the districts; Mr. Titzck, who had been for some years the Magistrate of the third district, was appointed Marshal and Postmaster.

19. Mr. R. B. Anderson, F.R.C.S.E., the Medical Officer of No. 1 district, was confirmed in the appointment of Public Medical Officer; but he also continued to discharge the duties of his former district pending other arrangements.

Pensions.

20. The late Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. L. Byng, was retired on the abolition of his office in 1880. The allowance to be granted to him, and the apportionment of its payment between Tobago and the Falkland Islands, in which Colonies he had served, were not settled in the year. Certain advances on account of the allowance were made by the Crown Agents to Mr. Byng, which were temporarily charged against Tobago to await subsequent adjustment. These advances do not appear in the Expenditure of the year, but are included in the amount stated to be due to the Crown Agents at 31st December. There is no other charge on the Pension list.

Population.

21. The Population of Tobago is small. The last Census, taken in 1871, returned the numbers at 8,262 males and 8,792 females, making a total of 17,054 persons. The Population to the square mile, taking these numbers and the area of the Island, is about 150; but a very large portion of the country is uninhabited and waste.

22. A law for the registration of births and deaths was passed in 1868. It is defective in its provisions, and, assisted by inattention and indifference, the registration under it has been imperfect, is valueless as a record, and is not reliable for the purpose of statistics.

23. The results of this registration as shown in the past 12 years is stated in the subjoined table:—

Years.	Births.	Birth Rate per centum.	Deaths.	Death Rate per centum.	Marriages.
1869	618	3·57	363	2·07	100
1870	605	3·56	346	2·05	131
1871	602	3·06	401	2.04	109
1872	649	3·08	467	2·07	119
1873	646	3·07	423	2·04	53
1874	689	3·08	370	2·09	45
1875	724	4·01	509	2·82	89
1876	645	3·57	665	3·68	73
1877	698	3·79	499	2·70	107
1878	724	3·88	427	2·29	120
1879	695	3·66	412	2·17	99
1880	686	3·56*	300	1·53*	131

* These rates are calculated *exclusive* of still-births, the others *inclusive;* but the still-births recorded are few in number, and do not appreciably affect the rates.

24. It is calculated, upon the figures of this registration, that the Population of the Island at the close of the year was 19,324. The general impression, however, is that the census which is now being taken will exhibit but a slight, if any, increase to the numbers of that of 1871.

25. The mortality among infants is considerable here, as it is in most of the West India Colonies. The death rate of children under one year of age was 22·75 per cent. in 1880, and this rate is by no means an exceptional one. The death rate in the year among children of all ages under 15 years was 42·75 per cent.

26. Tobago does not exhibit a better standard of morality among the lower orders than the neighbouring Colonies, for 60·49 per cent. of the children born in 1880 were illegitimate. This stain on the Colonies, attributable without doubt to the teaching under the slavery system, when the procreation of children was encouraged and marriage discouraged, would seem to be ineradicable. It is one, if not the principal, of the causes of the large mortality among infants. It is hoped that the

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Bastardy Law recently passed may prove a help to the ministers of religion in their unwearied exertions to effect some improvement in the morality of the people.

Education.

27. The education in the primary schools is denominational. The ministers of religion undertake the establishment and the entire management of these schools. The Government has granted of late years a sum of 550*l.* in aid of education. Certain of the ministers of religion and a few laymen have been nominated as an Education Board, to whom the administration of the Government grant is entrusted. Of this grant 50*l.* is appropriated by the Board to the payment of an Inspector of the schools, and the balance is distributed in fixed grants to the teachers, and *in præmia* awarded upon the results of the examinations annually held by the Inspector. The report of the Inspector of schools upon the examinations made for 1880 is appended.

28. The subjoined table, prepared by the Inspector, exhibits the comparative working of the schools in the years 1876, 1879, and 1880, and the amount of *præmia* earned in each of these years by the teachers of the schools of the respective religious denominations :—

	1876.	1879.	1880.	Increase in 1880 on 1876.
No. on Registers -	1,895	2,055	2,230	335
Average attendance -	1,070	1,349	1,373	303
No. eligible as examinates	796	1,320	1,457	661
No. presented for examination - - -	699	1,117	1,292	593
Attendance at examination	1,047	1,575	1,689	642
No. of passes gained -	1,578	3,030	3,749	2,171
PRÆMIA.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anglican - -	37 12 0	75 16 8	102 8 0	64 16 0
Moravian - -	37 0 8	69 2 8	98 5 4	61 4 8
Wesleyan - -	38 9 4	62 12 0	93 4 8	54 15 4
Total -	113 2 0	207 11 4	293 18 0	180 16 0

29. There is no grammar school in the Island, and the middle and upper classes have no opportunity of educating their children except they send them abroad, to England, Barbados, or Trinidad. The cost of the board and education of a child in England is scarcely greater than that in the neighbouring Islands, and, when the many advantages of the education in England are considered, no one who has the means of sending a child there would entertain the idea of educating him in a Colonial school, however well it may be established and provided with teachers. The cost of the board and lodging of a child sent to Barbados or Trinidad for education is a bar to the use by parents in Tobago of the colleges of those Islands.

Imports and Exports.

30. The value of the imported goods in 1880 was 45,138*l.*, and of the exported goods 77,615, of which latter 77,549*l.* was the value of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.

31. The value of the Imports and Exports, and the direction of trade, in the last five years are shown in the table hereunder :—

Year.	Great Britain.		British West Indies.		British North America.		Foreign Countries.		Totals.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1876	23,315	76,963	30,922	2,693	345	—	—	14	54,582	79,670
1877	31,802	66,388	26,297	2,642	651	—	—	28	58,750	69,058
1878	15,013	64,088	25,773	2,826	600	—	20	550	41,406	67,464
1879	11,090	64,208	26,257	6,047	—	—	12	200	37,359	70,455
1880	6,529	71,459	38,462	5,871	—	—	147	285	45,138	77,615

32. There was a marked decrease in the Imports in 1878, and more so in 1879; but there seems to have been a revival of trade in 1880, for both Imports and Exports exceeded the figures of the two previous years.

33. It will be observed that the Imports from Great Britain were very small in the past year, and that the trade with the British West Indies increased considerably. This arises from the fact that the merchants now avail themselves of the lines of steamers carrying freight monthly from England to Barbados for getting out their goods. These goods are landed in Barbados and are brought thence in the small craft of this Island, and are entered at the Customs as goods shipped from Barbados. Only heavy goods and estates' supplies are now brought in sailing vessels trading between Great Britain and the Islands.

Shipping.

34. The table below shows the number of vessels entered and cleared in the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Vessels entered.	No. of Tons.	No. of Crews.	No. of Vessels cleared.	No. of Tons.	No. of Crews.
1876	123	6,654	597	120	6,899	599
1877	110	6,573	552	108	6,500	532
1878	124	5,530	661	124	5,399	659
1879	108	5,576	491	108	5,576	491
1880	134	6,901	721	129	7,603	771

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35. The shipping trade is confined to a few ship owners who have a direct interest in the estates, and to a few local merchants who own small craft. The tonnage and port charges are high, and are sufficient to deter transient vessels from coming here to seek a market. Were Tobago made a free port it is only reasonable to suppose that, as the Island lies in a direct line between Barbados and Trinidad, vessels passing between these places would have inducements to call in. Now vessels of every size and description are seen passing within a couple of miles of Scarborough, and not one ventures to look in.

Agriculture, Manufactures, &c.

36. The staple crops of the Colony in the past 10 years are hereunder shown :—

Year.	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Cocoa-nuts.
	Hhds.	Puns.	Puns.	
1871	4,737	385	1,030	468,908
1872	4,774	274	869	538,730
1873	2,941	251	374	395,005
1874	2,942	420	585	394,024
1875	6,430	918	1,002	669,500
1876	4,674	425	815	653,390
1877	4,082	333	663	598,745
1878	3,370	374	598	698,070
1879	3,447	793	279	598,737
1880	4,004	741	254	703,761

37. The year 1880 was an unusually wet year, and the manufacture of the sugar crop was seriously affected by it. No estate was able to reap all its canes; and the crop, though larger than in the preceding two years, was much below what it would have been had there been an ordinarily favourable season.

38. There are no manufactures other than from the sugar cane. A few American whaling vessels fish in the waters around the Island, but it is not known with what success, as they do not land the oil nor trade with the Colony in any way.

Grants of Land.

39. No grants of land were made in 1880. There is little, if any, squatting on Crown lands. All the land in Tobago, except a tract on either side of the central ridge of mountains, seems to have been, at some time or other long since, alienated by the Crown.

40. Large tracts of these lands are, however, now unoccupied; and either the owners do not care to assert their claims or there are no owners.

41. The absence of squatting, under these circumstances, must be attributed to the very limited population, coupled with the

fact that land of the most fertile quality can be had by the peasantry, in places less remote, on the easiest terms.

42. Land of the best description can be rented at 1*l.* per acre per annum; and land is so much in excess of the demand that the owners are careless of measuring out the quantity to their tenants, who commonly cultivate more than the acre or two for which they pay rent.

43. The metayer system, so extensively adopted, also gives to the labourers a large extent of land for their independent cultivation, of which they do not fail to avail themselves.

Prisons and Prisoners.

44. The statistics on this subject compare favourably in respect of the year under report. The commitments to prison were less by 26 than in 1879. Of this number, however, 11 were for debt and 8 for safe custody, showing a decrease of only 7 for penal punishment. The average daily number in prison was 33, against 46 in 1879. Of the number committed for penal punishment 13 had been previously committed three or more times, 10 twice before, and 22 once before; in 1879 the corresponding figures were respectively 13, 13, and 22. Only one person was committed for more than one but less than five years, in 1879 there were two such commitments; and for more than three months but less than one year there was only one commitment in 1880, and there were five in 1879.

45. The sanitary condition of the prison was good. There was but one death, and that was from chronic dysentery.

46. The cost of the prison was 440*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, or 13*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* per head of the daily average.

Crime.

47. The cases reported in the magisterial courts in 1880 were 1,132, and in 1979 they numbered 1,375, showing a decrease of 243. The convictions also exhibited a decrease of 209. The convictions for prædial larceny were 17 against 32 in the previous year.

48. In the Superior Criminal Court there were 19 cases in 1880, and 10 judgments for the Crown; and in 1879 there were 28 cases, and 15 judgments for the Crown.

Hospital and Asylum.

49. The admissions to the hospital in 1880 were 57, that is 42 males and 15 females, and 15 males and 6 females remained over from 1879. The number under treatment in the year was, therefore, 78. The number under treatment in 1879 was 103. The daily average in hospital in 1880 and in 1879 was much the same, namely 23.

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50. There were 12 deaths in the year, giving a death rate of 15·38 per cent. on the cases treated, and of 52·17 per cent on the bed rate. In 1879 these rates were respectively 14·56 and 65·21 per cent.

51. As is the case in the West Indies generally, ulcer cases were the most numerous. Dysentery was the cause of death in three out of the 12 deaths.

52. The lunatics were removed to Grenada at the commencement of 1880, and the local Asylum was closed.

General Remarks.

53. This report shows that the Colony was fairly prosperous in the last year. With an increase on the taxation of the previous year, which increase, however, yet leaves the Colony the distinctive claim to being the least taxed in the West Indies, the current expenditure was met, and upwards of 2,000*l.* of the Public Debt was paid off.

54. The financial position at this time is such that, although in this year unusual expenses have to be incurred in taking the decennial census and in making the quinquennial valuation of property, on which the lands and tenements taxes are to be levied, there is every prospect that the Revenues of 1881 will be nearly, if not quite, sufficient to liquidate the balance of the Public Debt, as well as to meet the year's Expenditure.

55. It is, too, no small matter to record, in conclusion, that Tobago was in a position in 1880 to seek admission into the International Postal Union, to the benefit of which the Colony was fully admitted on the 1st of January 1881.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Robinson, C.M.G. &c. &c. &c

Pembroke Cottage, Tobago,
April 12, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to the Board of Education my report on the examination I made of the schools of this Colony for 1880.

2. The examination for 1879 was for the reasons referred to in the report for that year concluded so late as August last, and I had immediately after to proceed with the examination for 1880, which was completed only last month.

3. No change has been made in the number of Government-aided schools. There are therefore still 21 on the list, 9 Anglican, 6 Moravian, and 6 Wesleyan.

4. Appended hereto are the returns usually furnished, viz:—

1. Return of number, attendance, examinates, &c.
2. Return showing attainments and premiums.
3. Rank and value of schools, and average value of each pupil.
4. Comparative tables. Between 1876 and 1880, and between 1879 and 1880.
5. Duplicate of results of examination as supplied to each school.

5. These returns exhibit the following statistical facts:—

1. *Number of Pupils on the Registers.* Boys 1,185; girls 1,040; total 2,230; average attendance 1,373; examinates eligible 1,457; examinates presented 1,292; attendance on day of examination 1,689.
2. *Passes, according to Subjects.*—Reading 1,194; dictation 841; arithmetic 782; extra third grade subjects 1,046; fourth grade subjects 204; total 4,067.
3. *Passes, regarding Denominations.*—Anglican, 1,469; Moravian 1,360; Wesleyan 1,238; total 4,067.
4. *Premiums, per annum.*—Anglican 102*l.* 8*s.*; Moravian 98*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*; Wesleyan 93*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*; total 293*l.* 18*s.*

6. It will be further observed that there is a marked increase under every head, not only between 1876 and 1880, but also between 1879 and 1880.

7. The buildings, with the exception of the Plymouth and Scarborough (Anglican) schools, continue quite suitable for the requirements of the pupils and are in good order. Plymouth schoolhouse is too small for the numbers attending, and there are no desks for the pupils. It requires to be raised from the ground to allow ventilation below. In answer to my communication on the subject, the Rev. Mr. Turpin writes that he is "making "every effort to have the school greatly improved by the end of "the present quarter." Scarborough school is in want of windows, and the floor requires to be repaired in several places.

8. Appended hereto is a list of books, furniture, and other material with which the schools mentioned therein should be supplied.

9. I also append the names of some of the pupils who have earned the highest premiums, and are thereby entitled to the favourable consideration of the Board on the distribution of rewards.

10. The pupils seem to be well classed and to have monitors judiciously selected. The time-tables differ in the vario schools; but there is nothing to justify my interference with the system adopted by the respective ministers in charge of them, especially as the teachers are alive to the fact that the existence of the school, and consequently their own income, must depend largely on their efforts to support and advance the school. That they

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work heartily under many discouragements I feel confident, and I can only express my regret that when their exertions cause the premiums to exceed the grant, it should become necessary to devise means to confine it within the prescribed limit.

11. With regard to the retrenchment contemplated by the Board from the operation of the rule (16) that "no pupil should "be presented a second time in the same subject under the same, "or a lower standard," it will be seen on reference to sections 12 and 16 of my last Report that I then anticipated a marked reduction in the amount of the premiums for this examination. Owing, however, to the suspension of the rule, these anticipations have not been realized. The premiums instead of being lower are higher, as it was but natural to expect an advance every year, if the teachers work faithfully.

12. The amount allowed by the Government for education (exclusive of the 50*l.* I receive for performing the duties of Inspector) is 500*l.* The amount of the fixed grant (*i.e.*, Government salaries to teachers) is 210*l.*, and the amount of the premiums is 293*l.* 18*s.* These two items alone, making 503*l.* 18*s.*, absorb the Education Grant, leaving 3*l.* 18*s.* due.

13. The Board having in view the statement of the Government that nothing beyond the 500*l.* would be allowed, passed, prior to this examination, a resolution reducing the fees on capitation to one half, in order to confine the demand within the grant. The premiums having proved more than was generally expected, it is now evident that capitation above the required average must be struck out altogether, or some other means devised for raising the sum to meet it. To do away with fees for capitation would after all be but fair to those teachers who are not fortunate enough to have their school in a populous locality, but who, nevertheless, may be as zealous and deserving as their more fortunate bretheren.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. J. FRASER,
Inspector of Schools.

ANTIGUA.

No. 10.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
June 25, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1880, together with the Colonial Secretary's report.

Duplicate copies of the Blue Book will be forwarded by the next mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of ANTIGUA for the year 1880.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The following is a detailed statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1880.

RETURN of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the Presidency of ANTIGUA for the Year ended 31st December 1880.

No.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1.	*Fixed Establishments.*							By customs - -	28,010	0	1½			
	Civil - -	4,044	15	9½				„ excise - -	5,024	17	9			
	Judicial - -	3,109	6	5				„ stamps - -	717	8	8			
	Ecclesiastical -	1,731	11	1				„ licenses - -	1,825	11	0			
	Police - -	3,787	18	10				„ fees of office -	557	2	8			
	Gaol - -	855	12	0				„ post office -	351	6	7			
	Medical - -	1,623	18	7				„ fines and penalties.	1,897	11	5			
					15,153	2	8½	„ rents - -	546	4	2			
2.	Pensions -				706	13	3	„ water rate -	370	7	8			
4.	Administration of justice.				48	2	3	„ taxes—						
6	Hospitals -				5,439	2	11	ecclesiastical	1,577	18	0½			
7.	Education -				1,167	0	2	water -	583	1	2			
9.	Police and gaols				938	16	0	„ miscellaneous -	532	19	1½			
10.	Rents - -				333	10	0	„ receipts from Presidencies for keep of lunatics and prisoners.	873	17	11			
13.	Works and buildings.				3,231	15	7							
14.	Roads, streets, and bridges.				4,062	9	11½							
15.	Miscellaneous -				1,197	7	3					42,868	6	3½
16.	Interest - -				3,439	18	10							
17.	Repayment of loans and sinking fund.				9,722	12	10	„ Island of Barbuda.	191	14	3			
								„ escheated estates	57	7	0			
18.	Military -				1,162	10	2	„ immigration loan interest.	156	16	5			
19.	Board of health				825	12	2							
20.	Signal stations -				176	8	3					405	17	8
	Carried forward													

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RETURN of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Presidency of Antigua, &c.—*continued.*

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward		160 2 5	By loan in aid of revenue.	5,171 0 0	
21. Market - -		310 10 6	„ premium in aid of revenue.	429 10 5	
22. Registration -		400 0 0			5,600 10 5
23. Telegraph -		255 11 8	„ balance from 1879.		8,344 11 5½
24. Drawback -		41 10 8			
Arrears of 1879 -		48,772 17 7			
Island of Barbuda -	450 8 0				
Escheated estates -	28 19 0				
Unrepresented estates.	12 9	479 19 9			
Balance to credit 31st December 1880.		7,376 13 0			
Balance in hands of Crown Agents.		589 15 6			
		57,219 5 10			57,219 5 10

2. Exclusive of the loan raised for immigration purposes, and of the balance in hand on the 1st of January, the Revenue for the year was 43,274*l.* 3*s.* 11½*d.* against 41,084*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* in 1879, and 37,362*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* in 1878.

3. Of the total ordinary Revenue, 18,448*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, or at the rate of 42·6 per cent., was raised on articles of human consumption.

4. The cost of collecting the Revenue was 1,589*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, or 3·6 per cent. on the total receipts.

5. There has been a marked increase over last year's receipts in nearly every item of Revenue, as will be seen by the following statement:—

——	1879.	1880.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - -	27,406 4 5½	28,010 0 1½	603 15 8
Excise - - -	4,138 15 0	5,024 17 9	886 2 9
Licenses - -	1,750 8 6	1,825 11 0	75 2 6
Fees of office - -	518 10 9	557 2 8	38 11 11
Post office - -	282 1 5	351 6 7	69 5 2
Fines and Penalties -	1,418 1 8½	1,897 11 5	479 9 8½
Rents - - -	508 6 1½	546 4 2	37 18 0½

6. The only items under which a decrease appears are the following:—

——	1879.	1880.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Stamps - - -	737 14 0	717 8 8	19 5 4
Taxes - -	2,324 7 6	2,160 19 2½	163 8 3½

7. The Expenditure, inclusive of a payment of 8,277*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* on account of the immigration loan, was 49,252*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* The Balance in hand on the 31st December was 7,966*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, to which must be added a sum of 250*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* due to the Government of Antigua by the other Presidencise.

8. The Expenditure shows an increase over that of last year of 13,128*l.* 11*s.* 8½*d.* This is principally due, 1st, to the large

amount of public debt paid off, namely, 9,722*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* against 1,100*l.* in 1879; 2nd, to the increase of the expenses for the repair of the public roads in consequence of the heavy rains of the past two years; 3rd, to the cost of erecting an additional ward at the Holberton Hospital; 4th, to the increased cost of the Militia; 5th, to the new charge for salaries for midwives in the country districts; and 6th, to the cost of purchasing and enclosing certain lands adjoining Government House.

9. The following statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Presidency on the 31st December shows an excess of Liabilities over Assets of 27,408*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* The excess on the 31st December 1879 was 32,752*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.*

STATEMENT of LIABILITIES and ASSETS of the Presidency of ANTIGUA on 31st December 1880.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To holders of local loan debentures of 1875.	10,100	0	0				By waterworks sinking fund.	22,927	15	7			
„ do. do. 1880	5,171	0	0				„ unrepresented estates.	1	11	1			
„ savings bank loan	8,890	15	1				„ Presidencies -	250	19	3			
„ waterworks loan debenture.	32,500	0	0				„ escheated estates	0	18	5½			
„ immigration current account.	1,090	4	5½								23,181	4	4
				57,751	19	6½	„ cash in bank on deposit.	6,500	0	0			
„ police reward fund.	240	1	3				„ cash in hands of Crown Agents.	589	15	6			
„ Barbuda, Island of.	564	9	5				„ current account	876	13	0	7,966	8	6
				804	10	8							
											31,147	12	10½
							„ excess of liabilities.				27,408	17	4
				58,556	10	2½					58,556	10	2½

Public Works.

10. A new ward has been added to the Holberton Hospital at a cost of 647*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* in 1880. The total cost of the building will be a trifle over 1,000*l.*, it will hold about 50 beds.

11. Repairs to the lunatic asylum have been effected at a cost of 303*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The old buildings at Rat Island are still used as a general lunatic asylum for the Leeward Islands. They however require enlargement, and some alteration, before they can be rendered anything like perfect, for their present use. The asylum is at times very much overcrowded.

12. A plot of land immediately to the east of Government House was annexed to that building, the cost of the purchase and of enclosing the land was 660*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

13. A sum of 419*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* was expended on the repairs of the gaol. The Antigua Gaol is now practically the common gaol for male convicts in the Leeward Islands. With reference to the remarks made in my report for 1878 as to the expediency of converting the Antigua Gaol into a common convict prison for the Colony, I would observe that the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands during the session of 1880 voted a sum of 150*l.* for the employment of a competent Engineer to prepare the necessary plans and estimate. Captain Alexander, R.E., is now engaged in that work, he has also, at the instance of the Legislative Council, been instructed to make a preliminary survey of the

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harbour of St. John's, with the ultimate view of widening the entrance to it, so as to make the harbour available for ships of large tonnage. The other remaining public work of importance in contemplation is the establishment of a reformatory for juvenile offenders.

Legislation.

14. Fifteen laws were passed by the Federal Legislature during the year.

1. An Act to remedy any defect in the publication of the jury list for 1880 in the Presidency of Saint Christopher.

2. An Act to consolidate and amend the various Acts relating to the Supreme Court in this Colony.

3. An Act to provide for the service of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1881.

4. An Act to adopt in this Colony Article 6, Clause 4, of the Postal Union Convention.

5. An Act to consolidate the laws of the various Presidencies relating to Bank Holidays, and respecting obligations to make payments and do other acts on such Bank Holidays.

6. An Act for further promoting the revision of the Statute Law by repealing certain enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary.

7. An Act for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

8. An Act to amend the "Pension Act, 1878."

9. An Act to declare the duties of Coroners and to ensure uniformity in the procedure of Coroners' Courts.

10. An Act to regulate Friendly Societies.

11. An Act to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the legal condition of aliens and British subjects.

12. An Act to enable the Governor to issue Commissions of Inquiry.

13. An Act to revise the fees and per-centages to be taken in Courts of Justice, and to require the collection thereof by means of stamps.

14. An Act to amend the Act No. 8 of 1876, entitled "An Act "to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the process, "practice, and mode of pleading in the Supreme Court in suits "and proceedings at common law and in equity, and to make "better provision for the hearing of appeals, the execution of "judgments and decrees, and other matters."

15. An Act to consolidate the law and practice in cases of Escheat.

15. The Local Legislature of Antigua passed 21 enactments.

1. An Act to authorise the appointment of a clerk to the Post Office.

2. An Act to amend "The Licensing Act, 1879."

3. An Act to except Chinese immigrants from certain provisions of the Immigration Act, 1862.

4. An Act to amend the Act No. 15 of 1870, entitled "An Act "for registering marriages, births, and deaths."

5. An Act to further amend the "Medical and Poor Relief "Act, 1870."

6. An Act to authorise the grant under certain conditions of a subsidy in aid of the introduction and maintenance of a supply of ice in this Presidency.

7. An Act to amend an Act, No. 22 of 1871, entitled "An Act "to authorise the appointment of a surveyor of public roads, "buildings, and works, and to make provision with respect to the "said public roads, buildings, and works, so far as regards the "public roads."

8. An Act to regulate the qualification of practitioners in medicine and surgery, and the sale of medicines.

9. An Act to authorise the taking over and maintenance by the public of the Ancient Burial Ground surrounding the Cathedral of St. John's.

10. An Act to appropriate a sum of 8,277*l.* 10*s.* out of the Immigration Fund for the payment of the costs and charges of the introduction of certain Chinese agricultural labourers.

11. An Act to regulate the granting of passports to Immigrants.

12. An Act for taking the census of Antigua.

13. An Act to continue the provisions of Act No. 8 of 1878, entitled "An Act to increase the duties payable on goods, wares, "and merchandize imported into this Island."

14. An Act to continue the "Rum Duty Act, 1871."

15. An Act to continue an Act, entitled "An Act to levy a "tax on certain wheeled vehicles."

16. An Act to continue in force the "Tariff Act, 1872."

17. An Act to continue the "Contagious Diseases (Cattle) Acts, 1875 and 1877."

18. An Act to repeal the Dog Tax Act, 1861.

19. An Act to encourage the destroying of rats in this Island.

20. An Act to provide for the service of the Presidency of Antigua for the year 1881.

21. An Act to make further provision for the service of the Presidency of Antigua for the year 1881.

Population.

16. The report of the Registrar-General shows that the total births and deaths in 1880 were respectively 1,500 and 1,132; and that, of the total births 67 per cent. were illegitimate. A copy of the report is appended.

Savings Bank.

17. The following return shows the amount of deposits in the Savings Bank since 1875.

	£	s.	d.
1875 - - -	12,907	10	2
1876 - -	11,606	17	5
1877 - - -	13,479	10	2
1878 - - -	16,194	13	8
1879 - - -	19,507	0	7
1880 - -	23,191	2	6

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18. The transactions of the year 1880 are shown in the following statement.

ST. JOHN'S SAVINGS BANK.

Balance Sheet to 31st December 1880.

Dr.										Cr.		
			£			£				£	s.	d.
	195	depositors of			less than	1	-	-		61	2	0
	252	„	1	and	„	5	-	-		644	15	6
	113	„	5	„	„	10	-	-		805	11	4
	103	„	10	„	„	20	-	-		1,413	19	1
	63	„	20	„	„	30	-	-		1,487	6	10
	29	„	30	„	„	40	-	-		989	16	2
	17	„	40	„	„	50	-	-		745	5	4
	15	„	50	„	„	60	-	-		805	16	3
	14	„	60	„	„	70	-	-		906	16	5
	10	„	70	„	„	80		-		756	8	8
	8	„	80	„	„	90		-		675	2	5
	6	„	90	„	„	100	-	-		558	16	6
	56	„	100	„	upward	-	-	-		13,340	6	0
	881											
£ s. d		*Drs.*										
8,564 3 5		Crown Agents for investments.										
2,700 0 0		Montserrat debentures.										
8,890 15 1		Antigua Treasury.										
2,600 0 0		Colonial Bank deposit account.										
436 4 0		Cash account.										
23,191 2 6										23,191	2	6

Abstract of Transactions, 1880.

—	Received from.			Paid to.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance of cash on 1st January -	16	9	6	—		
Deposits in Colonial Bank at interest	10,500	0	0	2,500	0	0
Montserrat debentures (invested in)	—			2,700	0	0
Crown Agents for investment -	—			8,564	3	5
Expenses - - - -	0	7	6	113	2	10
Interest - - - -	820	14	2	707	18	10
Depositors - - - -	10,896	14	2	7,212	16	3
Balance of cash on 31st December -	—			436	4	0
	22,234	5	4	22,234	5	4

Education.

19. A copy of the report for 1879 of the Inspector of Schools is appended.

20. The system of elementary education inaugurated in 1874 continues to work most satisfactorily.

Emigration and Immigration.

21. Owing to the recent increase in the rate of agricultural wages there has been an entire cessation of emigration.

22. During the past year 87 field labourers, 78 males and 9 females, were introduced from Barbados, at a cost of 321*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, two-thirds of which sum was paid from the Immigration Fund, and the balance by the proprietors to whom the immigrants were indentured. A sum of 8,277*l.* 10*s.* from the same fund was placed at the disposal of the planters to defray the cost of introducing a party of 385 Chinese immigrants, but owing to some difficulty having been experienced in procuring a suitable ship to bring them to Antigua, it is uncertain at what date they may be expected.

23. The importation of Chinese from Hong Kong, or any other place out of China, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State in January 1880,on the understanding that the collection and shipment of the immigrants would be undertaken by the planters themselves, without contract or indenture. The Secretary of State's Despatch on the subject was laid on the table of the General Legislative Council in July last, for the information of the delegates from the other Islands, but no application for this, or indeed for any other class of Immigrants, has been received from any other quarter.

24. The amount to the credit of the Immigration Fund on the 31st of December 1880 was 1,090*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.*

Imports and Exports.

25. The total value of Imports was 160,767*l.* viz.:—

	£
United Kingdom - - -	82,855
British Colonies - - -	24,579
United States and other Foreign Countries - - -	53,333

26. The value of Exports was 263,550*l.*, viz.:—

	£
United Kingdom - - -	119,226
British Colonies - - -	15,384
United States and other Foreign Countries - - -	128,940

27. The quantity of sugar shipped during the last three years is as follows:—

	Hhds.
1878 - - -	10,745
1879 - -	14,730
1880 - - -	14,824

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Shipping.

28. The following is a comparative return of shipping for 1879 and 1880:—

Year.		Entered.		Cleared.	
		No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1879	sailing vessels	359	32,784	357	32,035
	steamers	65	62,243	65	62,243
1880	sailing vessels	386	28,184	388	27,697
	steamers	101	100,071	101	100,071

Crime.

29. The number of commitments to gaol during the year was 582, against 450 in 1879, showing an increase of 132. This increase was in commitments by the Magistrates, there having been a decrease of 10 in the commitments by the Supreme Court.

30. The total number of summary convictions was 4,069, against 2,500 in 1879.

(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES,
President.

REPORT of the REGISTRAR-GENERAL on the VITAL STATISTICS of ANTIGUA for the Year 1880.

Registrar-General's office,
February 9, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for his Excellency the Governor's information, the following report on the vital statistics of Antigua for the year 1880.

2. The number of marriages registered in 1880 was 224, viz: 91 in St. John's parish, 42 in St. George's, 31 in St. Peter's, 16 in St. Paul's, 26 in St. Mary's, and 18 in St. Philip's. The total number is 36 in excess of 1879.

3. The total number of births registered was 1,500, an excess of 202 over the previous year.

4. Of the whole number of children registered, 1,269 were black, 61 white, and 170 were coloured, and 769 were males, and 741 females.

5. The total number of deaths registered was 1,132, which is 33 less than in 1879, making a death-rate of 32·9 per 1,000 of

the population, which is the lowest death-rate that we have had in Antigua for many years. Of the deaths registered, 551 were males and 581 females.

6. The births exceeded the deaths by 360, which is the natural increase of the population for the year.

7. We are pleased to notice that the mortality of infants has not been as great during the past year as it was in 1879. In 1879 there were 32·9 deaths of infants under 1 year of age in every 100 births. In 1880 there were 28·6 in every 100 births, showing a decrease of 4 deaths in every 100 births.

8. It will also be observed with satisfaction that although there has been an increase of 202 births over that of 1879 there has been a decrease of nearly 5 per cent. in the illegitimate births.

9. During the past year Antigua has been remarkably healthy and free from all fevers of a serious type. The latter part of the year is usually the most unhealthy season, yet, in the last quarter of 1880 a smaller number of deaths was registered than in any previous quarter of the year.

10. A number of mid-wives and nurses have been appointed during the year and some of them at least have been of undoubted service, but owing to the difficulty of procuring suitable and properly qualified persons many of the villages are still unsupplied.

11. We notice with regret that the same disregard of parental responsibility and the same improvidence of which we complained in a previous report is still to be met with among a large class of our population, who seem to have no higher ambition than to gravitate to the poor house.

12. Nevertheless, from the facts shown in paragraphs No. 7 and 8 it is manifest that our people are amenable to improvement.

13. If the press united with the clergy and all other good citizens to form and to give expression to a wholesome public opinion with reference to the existing state of morality in our community their efforts would no doubt soon bear their legitimate fruit, for there can scarcely be an individual in Antigua so lost to all sense of shame as not to be influenced by the good opinion of those with whom he comes in contact.

14. We urge the earnest consideration of this question on all who have the best interest of the Island at heart, as it is only by an improvement in the moral condition of our population that we can hope for improvement in our vital statistics or social condition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. G. McHATTIE, M.D., F.R.C.S., ED.,
Registrar-General.

His Honour Edwin D. Baynes, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

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The following TABLES are annexed to this REPORT.

No. 1. Comparison of births and deaths for the years 1875 to 1880.

No. 2. General abstract of births.

No. 3. Showing the number of deaths from each cause for the years 1876 to 1880.

No. 4. Abstract of births and deaths.

No. 5. Total number of deaths in each parish and classification of age, sex, and complexion.

No. 6. Showing the number of deaths which occurred on each estate and in each village in the parish of St. John, with a comparison of the number of deaths of infants in 1878 and 1880.

No. 7. Ditto for St. George's.

No. 8. Ditto for St. Philip's.

No. 9. Ditto for St. Mary's.

No. 10. Ditto for St. Peter's.

No. 11. Ditto for St. Paul's.

(Signed) A. G. McHATTIE, M.D., F.R.C.S., ED.,
Registrar-General.

TABLE No. 1.

COMPARISON of BIRTHS and DEATHS from the Year 1875 to the Year 1880.

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	Excess of Deaths over Births.	Natural Increase of Population in Six Years.
1875 - -	1,647	1,397	250	—	—
1876 - -	1,622	1,336	286	—	—
1877 - -	1,399	1,628	—	229	—
1878 - -	1,428	1,350	78	—	
1879 - -	1,298	1,165	133	—	—
1880 - -	1,500	1,132	368	—	886
Barbuda -	35	22	13	—	—

TABLE No. 2.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of BIRTHS for the Year ended 31st Dec. 1880.

Parishes.	No. of Births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
Parish of St. John -	691	95	100	262	234	548	41	102
„ „ George -	174	27	22	60	65	158	6	10
„ „ Philip -	137	22	20	47	48	112	4	21
„ „ Mary -	207	36	37	60	74	188	2	17
„ „ Peter -	134	18	14	50	52	121	6	7
„ „ Paul -	157	53	39	29	36	142	2	13
Island of Barbuda -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	1,500	251	232	508	509	1,269	61	170

TABLE No. 3.

SHOWING the NUMBER of DEATHS from each Cause for the Years 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, and 1880.

No. of Headings of causes of Deaths.	Causes of Deaths.	Total No. of Deaths from each cause in 1876.	Total No. of Deaths from each cause in 1877.	Total No. of Deaths from each cause in 1878.	Total No. of Deaths from each cause in 1879.	Total No. of Deaths from each cause in 1880.
1	Zymotic, epidemic, endemic, or contagious or eruptive fevers -	195	196	224	158	115
2	Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of uncertain or variable seat -	—	51	61	64	45
3	Tubercular disease, consumption, marasums, &c. - - -	137	116	73	101	111
4	Diseases of the brain, spinal marrow, nerves, and senses other than tubercular diseases -	146	156	136	117	162
5	Diseases of the heart and blood vessels - - - -	77	63	81	50	58
6	Diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration other than tubercular diseases - -	57	56	73	94	54
7	Diseases of the stomach, liver, and other organs of digestion -	259	598	286	161	192
8	Diseases of the kidneys - -	2	6	13	7	7
9	Childbirth, diseases of the womb, &c. - - - - - -	10	9	9	22	9
10	Rheumatism, diseases of bones, joints, &c. - - -	10	9	5	23	5
11	Diseases of the skin, cellular tissues, &c. - - - -	32	28	29	36	19
12	Malformations - - -	—	—	1	—	—
13	Premature birth - - -	43	53	15	17	10
14	Atrophy - - - -	29	25	69	23	70
15	Age - - - - -	76	92	65	111	91
16	Violence, privation, poison, intemperance, &c. - - -	16	18	5	2	5
17	Sudden - - - -	—	1	2	1	4
18	Still born - - - -	186	139	184	143	149
19	Causes not specified - -	7	12	19	35	26
	Totals - - -	1,336	1,628	1,350	1,165	1,132

TABLE No. 4.

ABSTRACT of BIRTHS and DEATHS registered in the Year ended 31st December 1880.

Parishes.	Population by Census of 1871.	Total No. of Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000 Persons living.	Total No. of Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 Persons.	No. of Illegitimate Children in 100 Births.	No. of Deaths under 1 year in 100 Births.	No. of Deaths under 1 year in 100 Deaths.
Saint John's -	15,211	691	45·4	654	42·9	71·7	30·9	32·7
„ George's -	3,857	174	45·1	101	26·1	71·8	29·3	54·9
„ Philip's -	3,382	137	40·5	62	18·3	69·3	35·7	38·7
„ Mary's -	3,953	207	52·3	117	29·5	64·7	28·01	49·5
„ Peter's -	3,711	134	36·1	105	28·2	76·1	38·05	46·6
„ Paul's -	4,230	157	37·09	93	18·3	41·4	21·6	36·5
Totals -	34,344	1,500	43·6	1,132	32·9	67·8	28·6	37·8
Barbuda - -	—	22	—	35	—	—	—	—

TABLE No. 5.

SHOWING the TOTAL NUMBER of DEATHS in each PARISH, and Classification of Age, Sex, and Complexion.

Parishes.	Total number of Deaths.	Above 14 years.		Whole number of Deaths under 14 years.		Above 5 years but under 14 years.		Over 1 year but under 5 years.		Under 1 year.		Places.			Complexion.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Town.	Village.	Estate.	Black.	White.	Coloured.
St. John's - - -	654	160	202	160	132	7	12	28	31	129	85	475	78	101	501	35	118
St. George's - - -	101	15	18	40	28	2	10	5	—	21	30	7	63	31	88	3	10
St. Philip's - - -	62	10	21	21	10	—	—	5	3	17	6	—	43	19	54	1	7
St. Mary's - - -	117	17	26	37	37	4	—	5	7	27	31	6	90	21	110	2	5
St. Peter's - - -	105	21	19	37	28	2	3	6	5	29	20	23	32	50	98	3	4
St. Paul's - - -	93	13	29	20	31	3	1	5	8	15	19	19	51	23	70	8	15
Totals - -	1,132	236	315	315	266	18	26	54	54	238	191	530	357	245	921	52	159
Barbuda - - -	22	10	2	4	6	—	1	—	1	4	4	—	—	—	19	—	3

TABLE No. 6.

Residence.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1878.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1879.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1880.
City - - -	313	151	120	114
Hospital and poor house	151	17	15	21
Bath Lodge - -	1	1	—	—
Villa - - -	4	1	1	4
Thibou Jarvis - -	3	1	2	1
Green Bay - -	28	11	11	11
Wood - - -	3	—	—	2
All Saints - -	14	—	—	4
Cedar Grove - -	22	8	6	8
Cedar Valley - -	6	1	6	3
Marble Hill - -	2	1	1	1
Briggins - -	4	1	2	2
Gray's Farm - -	18	4	3	7
Five Islands - -	7	5	6	1
Royals - - -	1	2	-	—
Brecknock - -	1	2	1	1
Hamiltons - -	3	—	2	1
Belmont - -	5	2	1	4
Friars Hill - -	1	1	—	1
Weatherills - -	5	2	—	1
Potters - - -	14	5	9	5
Buckleys - -	11	4	5	5
Ottos - - -	3	2	—	—
Golden Grove - -	1	2	2	3
Bendals - -	5	2	4	3
Langfords -	3	1	—	1
Cassada Garden -	1	2	1	—
Grays Hill - -	14	2	5	12
Rat Island - -	11	—	2	2
Total - -	1,132	—	—	—

TABLE No. 7.

Residence.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1878.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1879.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1880.
Sea View Farm - -	28	16	14	11
Winthorpes - -	13	3	9	7
Barnes Hill - -	6	3	3	6
Fitches Creek - -	3	3	6	—
Blackmans - -	3	4	4	2
Judges - - -	4	4	2	3
Donovans - -	5	2	4	3
Millars - - -	1	2	2	1
High Point - -	3	—	2	2
Carlisles - -	4	—	2	3
North Sound - -	2	1	1	2
Gravenors - -	2	1	—	1
Paynters - -	4	—	1	3
Saint Mark's - -	5	2	—	2
Osborne's Villa - -	5	5	1	3
Pigotts - - -	9	—	—	5
Blizzards - -	4	—	—	—
Total	101	—	—	—

TABLE No. 8.

Residence.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1878.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1879.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1880.
Seatons - - -	11	2	6	10
Willikies - -	12	4	6	6
Newfield - -	11	2	3	2
Ffryes - - -	2	5	4	5
Gaynors - - -	2	—	1	1
Freetown - -	2	13	5	3
Long Lane - -	1	1	1	3
Lavicounts - -	1	—	—	—
Wickhams - -	1	—	—	—
Gilberts - - -	1	—	—	—
Walronds -	2	—	—	—
Gray's Estate - -	1	—	—	—
Lyons - - -	2	—	—	—

TABLE No. 9.

Residence.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1878.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1879.	No. of Deaths under 1 year of age in 1880.
Jennings - -	20	9	8	7
Bolans - - -	31	10	6	8
Johnson's Point - -	4	8	6	5
Darbys - -	5	2	5	5
Urlings - - -	6	1	3	4
Old Road - -	8	10	5	7
Green Hill - -	5	4	3	3
Hermitage - -	4	2	3	4
John Hughes - -	3	2	2	2
Bishops - - -	2	2	2	2
Green Castle - -	5	1	2	4
Sawcolts - -	6	2	1	4
River - - -	2	—	1	1
Kingston - -	2	—	—	—
Tottenham Park -	1	—	1	1
Fairfield - - -	2	1	—	—
Yorks - - -	3	1	1	1
Crabs Hill - -	5	4	4	4
Brooks - - -	1	1	—	—
Cades Bay - -	2	2	—	—

TABLE No. 10.

Residence.	Number of Deaths.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Sandersons - - - -	2	4	—	—
Vernons - - - -	3	1	2	1
Duers - - - - -	2	2	—	2
Pares Village - - - -	5	6	4	2
Betty Hope Garden - - -	12	1	1	8
Freeman Village - - -	23	8	5	11
Parrys - - - - -	4	1	2	2
Cotton - - - - -	7	1	3	5
Parham - - - -	23	16	4	6
Gilberts - - - -	3	2	1	3
Diamond - - - -	2	3	3	1
Cedar Hill - - - -	4	2	—	2
Parham New Work - - -	2	2	3	1
Little Duers - - - -	2	1	2	—
All Saints - - - -	3	—	1	—
Mercer's Creek - - -	3	—	—	—
Parham Lodge - - - -	3	—	—	1
Jonas's - - - -	2		—	—

TABLE No. 11.

Residence.	Number of Deaths.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Unmentioned - - - -	15	—	—	—
Sweets - - - - -	10	8	6	3
Bethesda - - - -	12	2	3	5
English Harbour - - -	13	3	4	5
Liberta - - - -	28	10	2	11
Falmouth - - - -	8	—	2	3
Willis Freemans - - -	1	1	—	—
Delaps - - - - -	4	—	—	3
Tyrells - - - - -	2	—	—	4

REPORT of the INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF SCHOOLS in the LEEWARD ISLANDS for 1880.

To his Honour E. D. BAYNES, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

SIR, Antigua, November 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, my report for the year 1880 on the elementary schools of the Leeward Islands which are aided or entirely supported by the Government. This constitutes the sixth annual report since the coming into operation of the Education Act of 1874.

2. There are added to this report, in Appendix A.,* duplicates of the statements of accounts for the year 1880 of schools in the Leeward Islands in the receipt of Government aid as the result

* Not printed.

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of examination, which statements of accounts have been already transmitted to the Presidents of the several Islands comprising this Colony; in Appendix B.,* the names of schools which have been struck off the Government list or to which grants in aid have been refused, and the reason for such refusal; and in Appendix C.* the names of students in the Mico Training Institution, St. John's, Antigua, arranged in order of merit, as the result of the Government examination held in June last, in accordance with the provisions of the Mico Act of 1878, and to which further reference will be made hereafter.

3. I have again the pleasure to report that during the past year steady progress has been made in elementary education throughout the Colony.

4. The number of scholars in daily average attendance has increased, and, on the whole, satisfactory progress has been made in their attainments in every Presidency of the Colony without exception.

5. This may be seen from the following tabulated statements, which I have carefully compiled :—

TABLE I.

Presidency.	1875.		1879.		1880.	
	No. of Schools.	Daily average Attendance.	No. of Schools.	Daily average Attendance.	No. of Schools.	Daily average Attendance.
Antigua - - -	45	1,830	38	2,136	38	2,317
St Kitt's - - -	26	1,327	25	1,628	25	1,811
Dominica - - -	23	600	24	1,205	24	1,227
Montserrat - -	12	448	11	579	11	699
Nevis - - -	9	406	10	643	10	724
The Virgin Islands -	10	324	11	347	11	355
Totals - -	125	4,935	119	6,538	119	7,133

6. In this table are shown the number of schools on the Government list in each Presidency of the Colony, and the daily average attendance in such schools for the year 1880, for the preceding year 1879, and for the year 1875; and from it we gather that—

A. The number of small and unsatisfactory schools in the Colony has decreased, for in 1875 there were 125 schools on the list, but in 1879 and 1880 only 119 were receiving aid or Government support.

And here I may mention that two new schools—Mrs. Aubrey's, in Roseau, Dominica, and Sawcolt's Wesleyan School, Antigua—replace the two schools which have been closed by their respective managers, namely, the Roseau Boys' Roman Catholic School in Dominica, and the St. John's Roman Catholic School in Antigua.

B. The general daily average attendance throughout the Colony has steadily increased from 4,935 in 1875 to 7,133 in 1880, or over 44 per cent.

* Not printed.

C. There has also been an increase in the number of scholars in daily average attendance in every Presidency without exception.

D. The greatest increase has taken place in Dominica and Nevis, amounting in the former Presidency to over 104 per cent. and in the latter to over 78 per cent.

E. The smallest increase has been in the Virgin Islands, amounting to only nine per cent. This very small increase is, however, preferable to a decrease.

For reasons which will be adduced hereafter the state of elementary education in this Presidency is not in a satisfactory condition.

F. No reference is here made to the number of names of scholars on the books, or even to the number of scholars who were present on the day of examination, the daily average attendance being the best criterion with regard to the increase or decrease of the number of children attending school.

7. I here insert a table of the schools of the Colony in general, classified according to the Government standards.

TABLE II.

Year.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Failed.	Total.
1875 -	3	8	33	81	125
1876 -	5	12	45	42	104
1877 -	7	19	48	37	111
1878 -	9	24	53	32	118
1879	13	25	52	29	119
1880 -	15	27	49	28	119

8. As Table I. shows that there has been a general and satisfactory increase in the number of scholars in daily average attendance, so it may be seen from Table II. that the schools throughout the Colony have made steady and continued progress.

9. Thus, in 1875, out of 125 schools aided or supported by the Government only 44 came up to the required standard, or about 35 per cent.; but in 1880, out of 119 schools on the Government list 91 obtained places in the class list, or over 75 per cent.

10. As a natural consequence, the number of failed schools has gradually decreased from 81 in 1875 to 28 in 1880.

11. No less than 20 out of the 28 schools which failed to come up to the Government requirements are in the Presidencies of Dominica and the Virgin Islands. Reference will be made to this fact hereafter.

12. Having alluded thus briefly to the schools of the Colony in general, I now proceed to offer a few remarks upon the schools in each Presidency.

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1. Gracefield Moravian School stands at the head of all the schools in the Colony in order of merit, followed but at a respectful distance, by Spring Gardens' Moravian School. In the former school the organisation and discipline were excellent; and the marks obtained for grammar amounted to "Very Good," and for arithmetic nearly to "Excellent." The manager of this school, the Rev. W. Batt, is very proud of it and takes unceasing interest in it. The teacher is Mr. S. Southwell, who passed through the Mico with great credit both to himself and to that institution.

2. Of the first 11 schools at the head of the list, eight belong to the Moravians, and no less than five out of the eight are in the first class. This testifies to the excellence of the work which is still being done by this religious denomination.

3. Of the 21 schools in the third class, several of the worst ones are in a chronic state of inefficiency, and will show no improvement, I fear, unless the teachers bestir themselves, or be superseded by more efficient and properly qualified men.

4. At the request of the Wesleyan Superintendent, I visited and examined Sawcolt's School, situate among the mountains to the south of the Island. Provision grounds abound in the neighbourhood, and huts of mud and wattle are being erected in every direction, in which the people are living in a most rude and primitive manner. School is kept in the chapel, a well-built structure of stone. A goodly number of children were gathered together, and many of the friends and parents of the children were also present. Under all the circumstances, I thought it advisable to enter the school on the Government list, and to recommend it for exceptional aid.

5. In October last I visited the two schools in Barbuda under the management of the Rev. W. Cowley. The parents had stoutly resisted the payment of school fees, and many had removed their children from the schools, which are the only ones in this Island. I took the opportunity to read and explain Sec. 8 of the Education Act, which relates to the payment of fees, and stated that the Government insisted on its fulfilment. This, I trust, will remove the wrong impression which the people had in this matter; and the fees when paid will supplement the available funds for carrying on these schools. The upper or juvenile school obtained a satisfactory place in the third class; the lower is only an infant school. The amounts payable to both schools as the result of examination would not quite equal the grant from the Barbuda fund; and as the existence of the schools is of primary importance, I recommend that the usual grant be continued at any rate for another year.

St. Kitt's.

1. The schools of this Presidency are still maintained in a high state of efficiency.

2. Out of 22 classified schools, 15 have attained to the first or second class.

3. The Moravian and Wesleyan schools in Basseterre retain their places at the head of the other schools of the Island.

4. No less than 7 schools have advanced from the failed to the class list, or from a lower to a higher class.

5. St. Peter's Anglican School, after two unsuccessful efforts, has regained its second class.

6. On the other hand, I regret to report that two schools have failed to retain their second class, one of which, however, is at the head of the third class.

7. A substantial and well-built school-house of stone has been erected at Palmetto Point by the Rector of Holy Trinity, who was largely assisted by his churchwarden, the Hon. W. W. Reid, who resides in the neighbourhood. Its dimensions are 40 feet by 22 feet, and it is conveniently situated and thoroughly ventilated. Mrs. and Mr. Reid were present on the day of examination, and evinced great interest in the day's proceedings, Mrs. Reid assisting in the examination of the girls in sewing. The school advanced from the third into the second class.

Dominica.

1. Great improvement continues to be made in elementary education in this Island, both as regards the increase in the daily average attendance, and the attainments of the children. Yet still the state of education in this Presidency is below that of any other Presidency of the Colony, with the exception of the Virgin Islands.

2. The daily average attendance has increased from 600 in 1875 to 1,227 in 1880, or over 104 per cent.

3. The Roseau Boys' Government School still maintains its position at the head of the class list. It is the only first-class school in the Island, and is under the successful and able management of Mr. F. Simon, whose labours are highly appreciated both by his scholars and their parents.

4. The Victoria Orphanage School continues to deserve all praise. The sewing was excellent, being in fact the best in the Colony.

5. I regret to report that no Roman Catholic youths have availed themselves of the great advantages now offered them by the Mico Institution. As I stated in my report for 1878, section 4 of "The Mico Act, 1878," provides "that it shall be lawful for "the Governor from time to time to nominate students of the "Roman Catholic religion; and that any such Roman Catholic "student may by a notice in writing to the Superintendent of "the College signify his wish to be withdrawn from religious "instruction; and in every such case, after receipt of such notice,

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"no instruction shall be given to such student in Scripture "knowledge or religious teaching of any kind." This provision is an ample guarantee that the religious education of a Roman Catholic student will not be interfered with whilst he is pursuing his course of study at the Mico College, which is an undenominational institution. But as no Roman Catholic youths have applied for admission into the Mico, and as none have been recommended for admission by the reverend fathers in charge of the several parishes in Dominica, I have no alternative but to send down from Antigua Protestant teachers to supply the vacancies which arise from time to time in the Government schools which are entirely supported by the Government.

6. Of the 24 schools in this island, only 5 are in the first or second class, 10 are in the third class, and 9, or over 37 per cent., are in the failed list.

7. Of these latter 5 are Government schools, and I felt it to be my painful duty to accept the resignation of one teacher, and to dismiss two others, as all previous warnings availed nothing. Their places have been supplied by teachers sent down from Antigua, and the schools have improved forthwith. For instance, I found only 24 children in Coulibistrie School even on the day of examination; but under the new teacher the average attendance at once rose to 57·7.

8. Father Sivienne has erected a school at St. Paul's, Mahaut, and has recently added a comfortable residence for the teacher. This school, and also Abbè Telievre's at Pointe Michel, are well attended, and the teachers are most zealous; but qualified and thoroughly efficient teachers are required for both schools.

9. I regret to have to report that the Roman Catholic Boys' School in Roseau is still closed for want of an efficient teacher. I believe, however, it will be re-opened shortly.

10. I trust that a great impetus may be given to elementary education in this Island under the auspices of the new Roman Catholic bishop, Monsr. Naughten, who is favourably disposed towards education, and who hopes to be able to get good and useful teachers for his schools.

MONTSERRAT.

1. The state of elementary education in this Presidency continues to improve.

2. The daily average attendance has increased from 448 in 1875 to 699 in 1880; and two schools have advanced this year from the failed list into the third class.

3. In 1875 not one school came up to the Government standard; in 1880, however, out of 11 schools 9 were classified and only 2 failed.

4. The new Wesleyan School in Plymouth is a handsome and substantial structure of stone. It is 50 feet by 26 feet, well ventilated, and fully supplied with galleries, desks, and benches. It is also conveniently situated in the middle of the town, and near to the chapel and mission house of the Wesleyan superintendent.

Nevis.

1. The condition of the schools in this Presidency is still very satisfactory.

2. The daily average attendance has increased from 406 in 1875 to 724 in 1880, or over 78 per cent.

3. St. George's Anglican School maintains its position as a first class school at the head of the list in order of merit. The school is still held in the small and very inconvenient schoolroom, which was formerly, I believe, a teacher's residence. So many children, together with their friends and relatives, were present at the examination, that I was compelled to remove into the church and the adjoining church-yard. The Rector is collecting funds for the purpose of erecting a new and suitable school-house on a piece of land near to the church, and given for the purpose by Sir T. Graham Briggs, Bart. I visited the spot and found the stone basement completed, the dimensions being 50 feet by 25 feet. The Rector hopes to complete the work before the next Government inspection.

The Virgin Islands.

1. With permission of His Excellency the Governor, I appointed in April last, as my deputy to visit and inspect the schools in this presidency, the Rev. H. R. Holme, B.A., Cantab.; Rector of St. Anthony's, in Montserrat. I cull a few extracts from his private report to me, omitting for obvious reasons the names of teachers and schools.

> "A. School in good order. Singing very good. A very promising school.
>
> B. Fair school. Singing horrible. Some big youths of 16 or 18 in the first standard.
>
> C. Wretched school all round. I suspect it is improperly kept.
>
> D. Miserable school. No register, no order, no discipline. This is the worst school in the lot. Teacher incompetent and neglectful.
>
> E. Not a decent writer in the school. No organization. Singing horrible.
>
> F. Poor school; got up for the occasion. No slate pencils. Teacher away making a cake for a wedding.
>
> G. Fair school, in good order.
>
> H. Children at play as the Inspector arrived. Schoolmaster rude and impertinent, taking the only chair in the school, sprawling himself upon it in the middle of the room, and

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leaving his Minister, who was sick, to lean against a desk. I shall be glad if you can convey to him in any way that his rudeness has been reported.

I. Fair school. Defective register. Arithmetic a complete failure. Sewing very good.

K. No children assembled. Presently they dropped in by ones and twos. Examination list not filled up.

L. School a mere farce. No register. No slate pencil. Schoolmaster willing but feeble."

2. From the above not exaggerated but bare statement of facts one may form some idea of the state of education in this Presidency.

3. Of the 11 schools receiving aid, two, or perhaps three, might obtain places in the third class, but the Government grant being limited in amount, and all the schools being necessary, all are recommended for exceptional aid.

4. With regard to the great majority of these schools it can only be said that they are absolutely necessary, and are, perhaps, better than no schools at all.

5. Some of the teachers are inefficient and neglectful of their duties, and all of them are underpaid.

6. The Government grant-in-aid is very small, and paid not regularly; the schools are situate in remote places; the teachers are under little or no supervision; and the journeys to and from the schools, both by sea and land, are always attended with great discomfort and oftentimes with positive danger.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

1. Section 8 of the Education Act provides that "No school "shall receive a grant-in-aid where the fee for each child is less "that one penny per week. Provided that where more than one "child of the same family is attending school, the rate of fee may "be reduced to one halfpenny per week for each additional "child of the same family, such fees to be payable in advance."

2. For some time this rule was much disregarded, for parents had not been accustomed to the payment of fees, and so refused to obey the new regulation, and both managers and teachers were reluctant to enforce it, lest their scholars might leave for some other school or cease to attend any school whatever.

3. In 1878, however, I was particular to draw the attention of all the managers of schools to section 8 of the Education Act; and from returns which I have recently received, I find that the rule is generally observed, and that, with two exceptions only, school fees are paid with more or less regularity in every school in the Colony.

4. I here insert the names of a few schools, which for various reasons I have selected out of the whole number, and add the amount of school fees collected in each during the year.

Name of School.	Denomination.	Presidency.	Fees for Year.
			£ s. d.
Spring Gardens -	Moravian - -	Antigua - -	25 4 2½
Green Bay - -	Do. - -	Do. - -	18 12 0
St. Bartholomew's -	Anglican - -	Do. - -	1 8 8
The Mico - -	Undenominational	Do. - -	25 8 2
Basseterre - -	Moravian - -	St. Kitt's -	22 11 3
Basseterre - -	Wesleyan - -	Do. - -	21 11 9
Bethesda - -	Moravian - -	Do. - -	15 17 0
St. Mary's - -	Anglican - -	Do. - -	6 3 4½
St. Thomas - -	Do. - -	Do. - -	2 4 5
New Town - -	Moravian - -	Do. - -	6 19 4
Roseau, boys - -	Government -	Dominica - -	40 18 11
St. Patrick's - -	Anglican - -	Montserrat -	0 10 1½
St. George's - -	Do. - -	Nevis - -	20 0 0
Charlestown - -	Wesleyan - -	Do. -	27 12 9
Gingerland - -	Do. - -	Do. - -	28 19 0
St. Paul's - -	Anglican - -	The Virgin Islands	0 10 10½
Kingstown - -	Do. -	Do. -	0 6 0

5. In town schools, and in *good* schools, whether in the town or country, fees are paid readily. Thus, Spring Gardens, the Mico, Basseterre, and Roseau Boys' schools are situate in towns; and Green Bay, Bethesda, St. George's, and Gingerland schools, though situate in the country, are nevertheless good schools, and collect the fees largely and easily.

6. Parents who are themselves uneducated can discern whether their children benefit by attending school or not, and are willing or unwilling accordingly to pay the fees. Thus in the many unsatisfactory schools in Dominica the fees collected are very small, but in the excellent Roseau Boys' Government School the fees amount to upwards of 40*l.*

7. The Moravians have from the first taught their followers the duty of contributing towards the support of their religion and education, and the fees paid in all their schools materially augment their school fund. Thus the fees collected in the Infant Moravian School in Newtown, one of the poor suburbs of Basseterre, are larger than those collected in St. Mary's—a good second-class school, the fees of which school do not amount to one-half those collected in Bethesda Moravian school, which is situated in the immediate neighbourhood.

8. In the Virgin Islands the Government grants-in-aid are small, amounting to not more than 7*l.* or 8*l.* per school per annum. Yet the fees collected by the teachers of these schools are less than in any other Presidency. The inhabitants of these Islands are doubtless poor, and very little coin is in circulation, yet surely the teachers of St. Paul's and Kingstown schools might make an

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effort to benefit themselves by collecting in a whole year something more than 10*s.* 10½*d.* and 6*s.* respectively.

9. Many of the teachers are underpaid, and consequently leave the Colony for other Islands, or resign the office of teacher for some more remunerative but less respectable employment. If all managers enforced the payment of school fees in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, then the Government grant-in-aid would be largely supplemented, the school fund augmented, and the teacher's salary increased.

10. It has not unfrequently come to my notice that over zealous and, perhaps, not over scrupulous teachers have persuaded parents to remove their children from one school to another some time previous to the examination. This I deem to be doubly unfair. Obviously, it is unfair to the school from which the children have been taken. It is also unfair to the school which these children have been induced to join, for it enables it to obtain a higher class at the examination than it is entitled to. The class obtained by a school at the examination is, *inter alia*, intended to be an indication of the value of the work done *in that particular school;* but if it obtains a higher class than it is entitled to by presenting for examination *children trained in another school*, then the intention of the Government regulation of "payment according to results" is evaded, and injustice is done to the school from which the pupils have been enticed.

11. I recommend, therefore, that in future no child be eligible for examination in any school which it has not attended from the first day of the month of January preceding the time of the Government inspection.

12. In June last, in accordance with Section 5 of the Mico Act, 1878, I conducted for the first time an examination of the Government students in the Mico Institution, in St. John's, Antigua, and at the request of the Superintendent of the College I also examined at the same time the other students who were in residence.

13. I confined my examination to the elementary subjects of reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, and history; and the result of the examination was on the whole satisfactory.

14. The students are annually examined by the Mico Board of Visitors, and on leaving the institution on the completion of the two or three years' course of study, each student receives a first, second, or third class certificate, according to his conduct, zeal, and ability.

15. It is scarcely within my province to report on the institution itself, but I may add that the Superintendent is most zealous and indefatigable, and is ably seconded by a competent assistant. The class rooms are fully supplied with school apparatus, and the students' rooms, dining room, bath room, &c. are all kept scrupulously clean. In the grounds of the institution is the Mico Model School (First Class), in which the students take their turn in teaching under the supervision of the Model Master.

16. There was again published this year in the "Royal Gazette of the Leward Islands," a class list of the schools of the several Presidencies, arranged in order of merit, and copies were sent to each manager and teacher throughout the Colony.

17. I have great pleasure in being able to report so favourably of the state of elementary education in this Colony for the year 1880.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
Inspector-General of Schools for the
Leeward Islands.

His Honour E. D. Baynes, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 11.

Governor Sir J. H. GLOVER, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, St. Kitts,
September 7, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1880, with the President's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Montserrat, August 20, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to his Excellency the Governor my report on the Blue Book of this Presidency for 1880.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
President.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary
of the Leeward Islands.

Finance.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1878 - -	- 5,637 -	- 5,474
1879 - -	- 5,698 -	- 5,552
1880 -	- 5,577	- 6,046

Average revenue, 5,637*l.*; expenditure, 5,690*l.*

In 1880 one half (200*l.*) of the purchase money of the building and premises occupied as Treasury and Police Station was paid, and a stone bridge which cost 155*l.* was constructed at the southern end of the town. These amounts may be considered as having been paid out of the cash reserve of the Presidency. There were other special and extraordinary items of expenditure.

The revenue from import duty in each of the years 1877, 1878, 1879 was a little over 2,300*l.* an advance of fully 300*l.* beyond former years; and there was an increase of about 100*l.* per annum in the yield of excise on rum. In 1880 the receipts from excise reached 765*l.* against 590*l.* in 1876, but import duty gave only 1,900*l.*, 100*l.* less than in 1876, and 400*l.* less than the revenue from that source in the years 1877, 1878, and 1879 respectively. Recovery from this falling off is not yet apparent, and to meet increased expenditure, some of it of quite recent creation, under various heads, I mention prisoners, schools, waterworks loan, conveyance of mails, postal union, transport of Federal officers, yaws hospitals. It may be necessary to impose additional taxation.

In Nevis there is an import duty of 5*s.*, and in Antigua, St. Christopher, and Dominica of 4*s.* 2*d.* a barrel on flour. Many years ago this indirect tax existed in this Island. It was felt by no one, and I believe that no one asked that it should be abolished. There are no wheat growers here to be protected, and nearly every labourer has his land yielding abundantly sweet potatoes, eddoes, cassava, bread fruit, pumpkins, &c.

This food is taxed, for there is a moderate tax on the land that produces it, and in the price of his pickaxe and hoe, the cultivator pays an import duty.

That the labourers' and the artizans' food supply should be varied and supplemented by wheaten bread is very desirable; but institutions and civilizing influences by which their condition is in every way improved, must be maintained.

For the four years 1877 to 1880, the average number of barrels of flour imported was 2,244. An import duty of 2*s.* a barrel, half the rate levied in the other Presidencies of the Colony, would neither discourage importation nor be felt by the consumer, and would put into the Treasury upwards of 200*l.* yearly.

Of American corn meal, the duty on which is usually one half of that on wheat flour, the annual importation into this Island does not exceed 350 barrels.

Trade.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1878 - -	27,311 - -	30,239
1879 - -	26,495 - -	35,685
1880 - -	25,364 - -	29,121

Average: imports, 26,390*l.*; exports, 32,963*l.*

Agriculture.

Up to the month of October the sugar crop promised to be very satisfactory; but, at a critical period, drought set in, and continued for many weeks, and canes that up to that time had been the joy and hope of the planter, were on some estates quite burnt up by the sun. The latter rain, on which so much always depends, had failed.

The yield of 1880, expected to equal that of 1875, which was 2,520 hogsheads, amounted only to 1,730 hogsheads, with prices, however, much higher than in 1875.

The package cited here is the tierce, three of which equal two hogsheads.

I have in former reports spoken of the interesting and important cultivation of lime trees, for some years past established on an extensive scale in this Island. This agricultural industry does much to promote the prosperity of the community generally; it gives suitable and healthful employment to women and children as well as to men of the labouring class.

—	1878.	1879.	1880.
Lime juice, raw - -	728 puncheons.	714 puncheons and 93 hogsheads.	603 puncheons and 8 casks.
„ concentrated	18 „ 16 casks.	258 „ and 2 barrels.	268 hogsheads.
Lime essence - -	10 cases.	20 cases.	23 cases.
Limes, pickled - -	Nil.	26 hogsheads and 186 barrels.	50 hogsheads. 149 barrels. 259 packages.

The calling here of the Royal Mail Steamers, which began in January of last year, has led to the commencement of the export to England in boxes of fresh green limes. A recent shipment, I am informed, amounted to seven tons weight; each lime is wrapped in paper.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
President.

St. Kitts.

ST. KITTS.

No. 12.

Governor Berkeley, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
June 7, 1881.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of St. Christopher for the year 1880, together with President Moir's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) George Berkeley,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Sir,

President's Office, May 10, 1881.

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Presidency for the year 1880, with reference to which I beg to submit the following report.

Finance.

2. A balance of 4,007*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* remained in the Treasury on the 1st January, and a Revenue of 32,121*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* was collected during the year. Combined these amounts gave an available sum of 36,129*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* to meet the Expenditure of the year, and it was fortunate that the receipts were so large, for payment was made of 6,523*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* to meet the charges consequent on the damage caused by the flood of the 12th January, and a balance of 1,158*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* was left in the Treasury on the 31st December 1880, notwithstanding the total excessive expenditure of 34,971*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* for the year.

3. With that exception the Revenue and Expenditure for 1880, did not much vary from that for 1879.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue for 1879 - - -	32,817	10	8
„ 1880 - - -	32,121	13	10
Being a decrease of - - -	695	16	10
Expenditure for 1879 - - -	28,972	13	9
„ „ 1880 omitting the flood account - - -	28,447	18	9
Being also a decrease of - -	524	15	0

4. The available balances in the Colonial Bank at the credit of this Government on the 31st December 1880 were:—

	£	s.	d.
At general account - - - -	1,158	3	11
Immigration fund - - - - -	8,365	13	3
Unrepresented estates - - -	134	11	1
Land claims - - - - -	53	9	3
Savings bank deposits with interest - £1,297 16 2			
Less due depositors - 1,256 12 9	23	3	5
	9,735	0	11

Saint Kitts Savings Bank, 31st December 1880.

£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
—			5 Depositors of less than - - 1*l.*	2	1	7
—			11 „ „ over 1*l.* and less than 5*l.*	31	7	5
—			10 „ „ „ 5*l.* „ „ 10*l.*	75	12	2
—			7 „ „ „ 10*l.* „ „ 20*l.*	93	17	6
—			1 „ „ „ 20*l.* „ „ 30*l.*	21	1	0
—			4 „ „ „ 30*l.* „ „ 40*l.*	144	7	3
—			3 „ „ „ 40*l.* „ „ 50*l.*	124	11	3
—			1 „ „ „ 50*l.* „ „ 60*l.*	55	8	2
—			1 „ „ „ 60*l.* „ „ 70*l.*	63	15	0
—			1 „ „ „ 70*l.* „ „ 80*l.*	—		
—			1 „ „ „ 80*l.* „ „ 90*l.*	—		
—			1 „ „ „ 90*l.* „ „ 100*l.*	91	19	0
—			5 „ „ „ 100*l.* „ „ 150*l.*	522	11	5
				1,256	12	9
32	19	0	Interest - - - - -	56	2	7
1,125	0	0	Deposits at Interest - - -	—		
154	16	4	Cash on hand - - - -	—		
1,312	15	4		1,312	15	4

Abstract of Transactions for the year ended 31st December 1880.

—	Received from.			Paid to.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash balance on Jan. 1, 1880 - -	108	6	2	—		
Expenses - - - - -	—			—		
Interest - - - - -	56	2	7	32	19	0
Deposits at Interest - - - -	1,125	0	0	125	0	0
Depositors - - - - -	833	15	9	685	9	4
Cash balance carried forward - -	—			1,279	16	2
	2,123	4	6	2,123	4	6

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Imports and Exports.

5. The export for the last three years of the principal productions was as follows:—

——	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.
	Hogsheads.	Puncheons.	Gallons.
1878 - - -	13,684	951	549,602
1879 - - -	12,325	543	340,531
1880 - - -	12,681	385	398,184

From the above table it will be seen that, notwithstanding the injury suffered by some of the Valley of Bassetere sugar estates during the January flood, the exportation of sugar in 1880, from all parts of the Island, exceeded that of 1879 by 356 hogsheads, and, but for that injury, my estimate of 13,000 hogsheads would have been realized.

The exports for 1880 exceeded what is here considered a fair average crop, although it fell short of that shipped in 1878 by 1,003 hogsheads. But I do not hear so much complaint of loss from rats, numbers of which must have been destroyed in the month of January last year.

6. The value of imports for the last three years, and the several countries with which St. Kitts has commercial intercourse, are shown in the following tables:—

Imports from.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	85,805	91,355	77,205
British Colonies - -	30,386	25,163	23,882
Foreign Countries - - -	56,926	60,725	66,940
Total - -	173,117	177,243	168,027

The value of exports in 1879 and 1880 similarly classified was:—

Exports to.	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - 1879	137,061	93	137,154
" 1880	128,165	—	128,165
British Colonies - 1879	3,752	9,496	13,248
" 1880	4,068	7,205	11,273
Foreign countries - 1879	16,346	9,476	25,822
" 1880	38,825	7,749	46,574

	£
Totals 1879 - - - -	176,224
" 1880 - - - - -	186,012

The increase in the value of exports is entirely absorbed in that of Island produce, shipped to foreign countries and British Colonies, there being a falling off in each of the other divisions in the above table.

7. *Shipping.*

Sailing Vessels Inwards.

Countries.	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British -	328	17,577	68	3,810	396	21,387
Foreign - -	432	12,090	35	699	467	12,789
Total -	760	29,667	103	4,509	863	34,176

Steam Vessels.

Countries.	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British - -	69	91,395	Nil.	Nil.	69	91,395
Foreign - -	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total - -	69	91,395	Nil.	Nil.	69	91,395

Sailing Vessels Outwards.

Countries	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British - -	313	19,563	89	3,452	402	23,015
Foreign - -	368	9,942	82	3,080	450	13,022
Total - -	681	29,505	171	6,532	852	36,037

Steam Vessels.

Countries.	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British - - -	69	91,395	Nil.	Nil.	69	91,395
Foreign - - -	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total - -	69	91,395	Nil.	Nil.	69	91,395

Education.

8. The Inspector General reports that during the past year steady progress has been made in elementary education throughout the Colony, and with respect to this Presidency, he makes the following remarks :—

"The schools of this Presidency are still maintained in a high state of efficiency. Out of the 22 classified schools, 15 have attained to the first or second class. The Moravian and Wesleyan schools in Basseterre retain their places at the head of the other schools of the Island. No less than seven schools have advanced from the failed to the class list, or from a lower to a higher class. St. Peter's Anglican School after two unsuccessful efforts has regained its second class. On the other hand I regret to report that two schools have failed to retain their second class, one of which, however, is at the head of the third class. A substantial and well-built schoolhouse of stone has been erected at Palmetto Point by the Rector of Holy Trinity, who was largely assisted by his churchwarden, the Hon. W. W. Reid, who resides in the neighbourhood. Its dimensions are 40 feet by 22 feet, and it is conveniently situated and thoroughly ventilated. Mrs. and Mr. Reid were present on the day of examination, and evinced great interest in the day's proceedings, Mrs. Reid assisting in the examination of the girls in sewing. The school advanced from the third into the second class."

He also refers to a very objectionable practice which obtains in some parts of the Colony of children being removed from one school to another some time previous to the examination, and he makes the wise recommendation "that in future no child be "eligible for examination in any school which it has not attended "from the first day of the month of January preceding the time "of the Government inspection."

The grants from the Government to the schools in this Presidency for the last five years, were as follows :—

Year.	Class Grants.	Capitation Grants.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876 -	261 5 0	316 5 6	577 10 6
1877 -	280 0 0	326 4 0	606 4 0
1878 -	295 0 0	331 14 0	626 14 0
1879 -	305 0 0	367 14 0	672 14 0
1880 -	330 0 0	431 5 0	761 5 0
	1,471 5 0	1,773 2 6	3,244 7 6

One school has been advanced from the second to the first class; five schools from the third to the second class; one school from the failed list to the third class; while two schools have been reduced from the second to the third class in the Presidency.

Works and Buildings.

9. Much of the time of the officers of Government and a considerable amount of money from the Treasury were employed in restoring the walls, bridges, roads, and the streets of the town of Basseterre, which had been so much injured by the flood. The other works and repairs are enumerated by the Superintendent of Public Works in the Blue Book return, and the principal exceptional work referred to above consisted of the following:—

Statement showing the Expenditure from the General Revenue on Flood Account to 31st December 1880.

	£	s	d.
Clearing and mending streets of Basseterre - - -	3,013	4	1
Church wall and Poore Memorial School - - - -	325	17	4
Cleaning and mending roads - - - - - -	659	17	1
Repairs to Export wharf - - - - - -	23	15	8
Repairs to Import wharf - - - - - -	273	4	1
Water supply - - - - - - -	231	17	8
Treasury buildings - - - - - -	18	2	7
Mileiken bridge - - - - - - -	54	6	10
Canada bridge and retaining walls - - - -	258	12	11
Key Bridge - - - - - - -	467	0	10
Market and slaughter house - - - - -	186	10	5
Government house walls - - - - - -	62	5	3
Johnson's ravine - - - - - - -	572	12	11
Wardenbro retaining wall - - - - - -	50	0	0
Old road bridge - - - - - - -	18	3	8
Duport's ravine - - - - - - -	44	15	10
Dewar's ravine - - - - - - -	30	0	0
Total - - - - - -	6,290	7	2

Population.

10. During the year there were registered 1,304 births and 986 deaths, still births being registered both as births and deaths, numbered 132. Setting these aside, we have 1,172 births and 854 deaths, which would give a gain of 318, if the loss in the flood in January of 231 lives had not to be taken into account. This still leaves a surplus of 87. An attempt was made to register the deaths in the flood, but it was found to be futile, as more than half of the bodies were not recovered here, and some of

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those found were not identified. The total of 231 is accounted for as follows:—

Bodies found and buried here - -	101
Bodies washed ashore and buried in St. Eustatius - - -	15
Missing - - - -	115
	231

Setting aside this loss, and assuming the average population of the Island during the year to have been 29,500, these returns would give a birth rate of 39·7 per thousand and a death rate of 28·8 per thousand, which, however, is increased to 36·6 per thousand by the 231 lives lost in the flood.

The following table illustrates the foregoing facts:—

Registered.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Black.	White.	Coloured.	Total.
Births -	528	644	950	62	160	1,172
Still-births -	37	95	113	6	13	132
Deaths -	—	—	678	50	126	854

Lives lost in the flood - - - -	Buried here - -	101
	Buried in St. Eustatius	15
	Missing - -	115
	Total - - -	1,085

The following table shows the births and deaths for the seven years beginning 1874, still births being registered both as deaths and births:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.
1874 - - -	1,203	1,010	193
1875 - - -	1,285	1,143	142
1876 - - -	1,231	879	352
1877 - - -	1,214	1,066	148
1878 - - -	1,245	957	288
1879 - - -	1,050	1,015	35
1880 - - -	1,304	1,217*	87

Total increase 1,245.

At the census of 1871 the total population was 28,169. It will, therefore, probably amount to about 29,414 at the coming census.

* Including 231 lives lost in the flood in January.

The health of the Island has been, on the whole, satisfactory. It is worthy of remark that, though after the flood several days elapsed before all the corpses that could be found were buried and the streets were several feet deep in sand and débris for some weeks, there was no epidemic of any kind. This is to be attributed to the facts: Firstly, that those bodies that could not be immediately found were covered with the earth brought down by the flood, and did not, therefore, contaminate the atmosphere. Secondly, the natural slope of the Island is so great that there were no stagnant pools left. Finally, the soil brought down consisted of sand and good mould, for the most part unmixed with vegetable matter, consequently there were no malarious exhalations from it.

The usual tropical diseases were not more prevalent than usual, but during the last four months of the year there was an extensive epidemic of whooping cough, causing no little loss of life among the children of the labouring classes. Dr. Semper reports that the disease was imported from Saint Eustatius.

As is always the case, the infant mortality was extremely high. The subject has been so fully discussed in former reports that it is unnecessary to do more than refer to it here. Below is a condensed table showing the number of deaths from each cause :—

Zymotic diseases - - - -	31
Dropsy, cancer, and other diseases of a variable seat - - - - - -	92
Tubercular diseases - - - -	72
Diseases of the nervous system (non-tubercular) -	137
Diseases of the heart and blood vessels - -	50
Diseases of the respiratory organs (non-tubercular)	102
Diseases of stomach and liver - - -	217
Diseases of kidneys - - - -	16
Childbirth, diseases of the womb, &c. - -	2
Rheumatism, diseases of bones, joints, &c. -	8
Diseases of the skin, cellular tissues, &c. - -	26
Malformations - - - - -	—
Atrophy - - - - -	14
Premature birth - - - - -	32
Old age - - - - - -	21
Sudden - - - - - -	4
Violence, privation, intemperance, &c.* - -	255
Still born - - - - -	132
Causes not specified - - - -	6
Total - - - -	1,217

During the year 501 cases of successful vaccination were registered.

When the Ordinance giving the medical officers a fee for each case comes into operation the number will no doubt be greater.

* Including 231 lives lost in the flood in January.

Abstract of Births, Vaccinations, and Deaths for the Year 1880.

Parishes.		No. of Births and Still-births.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Complexion.			No. of Cases of successful Vaccination.	Number of Deaths.
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Black.	White.	Coloured.		
St. George's	Births	270	56	54	80	80	186	27	57	186	349*
	Still-births	42	6	4	19	13	34	2	6	—	—
St. Peter	Births	67	14	16	25	12	57	6	4	—	—
	Still-births	9	1	1	5	2	9	—	—	13	55
St. Mary	Births	69	15	21	21	12	59	6	4	—	73
	Still-births	9	1	—	5	3	8	—	1	—	—
Christ Church	Births	117	40	32	27	18	109	2	6	56	75
	Still-births	9	1	3	3	2	7	2	—	—	—
St. John	Births	207	58	43	58	48	170	4	33	—	108
	Still-births	15	1	4	9	1	12	—	3	—	—
St. Paul	Births	80	21	15	27	17	65	5	10	19	46
	Still-births	7	—	1	5	1	6	—	1	—	—
St. Ann	Births	136	27	20	49	40	125	1	10	80	135
	Still-births	21	3	4	10	4	18	2	1	—	—
St. Thomas	Births	150	39	26	46	39	109	9	32	91	90
	Still-births	13	3	2	5	3	13	—	—	—	—
Trinity	Births	76	16	15	23	22	70	2	4	56	46
	Still-births	7	1	1	4	1	6	—	1	—	—
Totals		1,304	303	262	421	318	1,063	68	173	501	977

* Not including 231 lives lost in the flood in January.

Gaols and Prisoners.

11. The following were the commitments during the years 1878, 1879, 1880:—

Year	Males.	Female.	Juveniles.
1878 -	298	102	18
1879 -	361	131	33
1880 -	391	152	53

Of whom had been previously convicted—

Years.	Once.	Twice.	Thrice or oftener.
1878 -	68	46	32
1879 -	70	54	134
1880 -	76	23	108

Of these one was committed for punishment for five years or more; 16 for one year or more but less than five years; 29 for more than three months but less than one year; and 503 for three months or less.

Two more were committed for debt and 45 for safe custody till trial, or for want of security, making in all 596 during the year.

I mentioned in my last report that I had introduced an improved plan of providing food for the prisoners, and I anticipated that the cost of that item would be considerably reduced. In that I have not been disappointed, as the relative cost of prisoners was in 1879 758*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, and in 1880 450*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*

The following is the monthly cost of feeding prisoners for the past two years:—

Expenditure.

RETURN showing the number of prisoners rationed monthly in the common gaol, the cost of rations per month, and the rate of a daily ration for each prisoner.

Month.	No. of Prisoners fed monthly.	Paid Contractor's Account.	Average Value of Rations for each Prisoner daily.
1879.		£ s. d.	
January - - -	1,833	51 7 2	
February - -	1,733	48 8 4	
March - - -	1,899	53 5 1	
April - - -	1,670	47 4 3	
May - - -	1,772	50 17 5	
June - - -	1,897	53 11 2	
July - - -	2,470	68 16 0	$6\frac{3}{4}d.$
August - - -	2,516	70 7 3	
September - -	2,491	69 0 10	
October - -	2,783	77 17 5	
November - -	2,846	78 12 3	
December - -	2,529	72 3 0	
	26,439	741 10 2	

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In addition to the above return the Provost Marshal supplied sick diet, by order of the Gaol Surgeon, to 472 sick prisoners during the year at a cost of 16*l.* 10*s.*, giving an average of $8\frac{1}{4}d.$ a day for each sick prisoner.

Expenditure.

RETURN showing the number of prisoners rationed monthly in the common gaol, the cost of rations per month, and the rate of a daily ration for each prisoner.

Month.	No. of Prisoners fed monthly.	Paid for Supplies.	Average Value of Rations for each Prisoner daily.
		£ *s.* *d.*	
1880.			
January -	2,311	35 9 8	
February -	2,284	35 7 6	
March -	2,256	28 16 1	
April - -	2,263	37 7 11	
May - -	2,252	30 7 10	
June - -	2,404	36 14 2	$3\frac{1}{3}d.$
July - - -	2,946	38 16 10	
August - - -	2,975	43 4 6	
September -	3,187	41 2 6	
October - -	3,242	48 18 5	
November - -	2,988	34 5 1	
December - -	2,718	39 19 1	
Total - -	32,126	450 9 7*	

* In the above is included the rations for sick prisoners.

Recent correspondence on the subject having taken place it is unnecessary for me to say more than that my remarks in the last Blue Book Report, on the condition of the gaol itself, may be accepted as applying also to the year last passed.

I cannot express too strong an opinion against the practice pursued, principally in the country district, of committing mere children to the common gaol. I have in most cases sent them back to their parents by the police, with an admonition that they will in future be held responsible for their evident neglect of their offspring, and this seems to have had its effect, as I have not lately observed this class of prisoners in the common gaol.

Criminal Statistics.

	No. of Persons summarily convicted.			No. of Persons sent for trial in Supreme Court.		
	1878.	1879.	1880.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Against the person -	487	520	444	13	22	26
Prædial larceny - -	35	43	73	—	9	—
Against property other than larceny.	208	265	305	17	4	20
Other offences - -	1,182	1,128	1,363	1	10	8
Total - - -	1,912	1,956	2,185	31	45	54

Number of Persons convicted in Superior Courts.

	1878.	1879.	1880.
Offences against the person - -	13	22	20
Prædial larceny - - -	—	9	—
Against property, other than larceny -	17	4	16
Other offences - - - -	1	10	7
Total - - -	31	45	43

Punishments inflicted.

	1878.	1879.	1880.
Fine - - - - -	1,548	1,493	1,683
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety -	282	321	311
Peremptory imprisonment - -	73	116	173
Whipping - - - -	—	—	—
Death - - - - -	—	—	1
Bound over - - - -	9	—	18
Total - -	1,912	1,930	2,186

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Concluding Remarks.

12. Allusion has been made to the disastrous flood which occurred on the 12th of January 1880, and I have published a small pamphlet giving the details of that calamity, a copy of which accompanies this report, either for reproduction or the selection of such portions of interest as may seem expedient to the Secretary of State to append to this sketch of the history of Saint Christopher for the year 1880. The sugar crop for the present year will be, as anticipated, under the average.

I estimated it at 10,000 hogsheads, and from present appearances I do not think it will fall far short of that quantity, for, although the valley of Basseterre and some of the south side estates have partially failed, yet, in other parts of the Island, an average has been sustained, and in some places an advance has been secured over former years' production.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALEX. W. MOIR,
President.

REPORT submitted by the Relief Committee, giving a short account of the Flood of 1880, and of the funds received by them, and how appropriated, for the relief of the sufferers.

THE Committee which was appointed by his Honour President Moir, on the 12th of January 1880, for the purpose of affording immediate relief to the survivors of the great flood, which occurred on the morning of that day, as well as of administering any funds which might come into their hands intended for the benefit of the suffering poor, having now terminated their labours, consider it to be their duty to put on record a short narrative of the awful catastrophe, and, at the same time, to furnish the generous donors to the Relief Fund with an account of the receipts and expenditure of the moneys with which they were entrusted, and of the character of the aid extended to those who stood most in need of help.

During the evening of the 11th of January last the atmosphere was close and oppressive, lurid clouds hanging to the east-north-east of the Island, one or two showers of rain falling before nightfall, and eye-witnesses declaring that water-spouts were seen hovering in the same direction.

At 10 o'clock p.m. rain began to fall steadily, but not particularly heavily, till about 12 o'clock, when it came down on

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the land surrounding the town of Basseterre in volume more resembling sheets of water than drops of rain, insomuch that those who heard it could not rest, but anxiously kept vigil till daylight would disclose what havoc had been wrought. During the following three hours the terrible deluge continued, and those who were not then actually experiencing its destructive power, partly conjectured the damage it must be effecting.

Fitful lightning was playing around, but not of so bright or continuous a nature as to reveal what was happening; while some who were near the gullies which were being washed out of the land adjacent to Monkey Hill were under the impression that the storm was being accompanied by thunder and earthquake. These latter, however, have now reason to believe, from after observation, that the roaring of the torrents, bearing in their wild embrace enormous boulders of granite, each of several tons' weight, down to the low lands of Basseterre, destroying in their course bridges and other masonry, must have been the origin of their belief in the thunder and the trembling of their dwellings to their very foundations.

Between three and four o'clock on the morning of the 12th the rain moderated, and soon after entirely ceased, and the first faint light revealed to the eyes of those on the neighbouring hills a scene of desolation which it is impossible for a non-beholder adequately to imagine.

Portions of cultivated land, over an area of three miles from east to west, and of two miles from north to south, which on the previous evening were smiling under the beautifully waving sugar cane, were scooped out into hideous gullies of 100 feet wide and 30 feet deep, the water bearing earth, boulders, and sand down upon the low lands, and into the devoted town of Basseterre.

The canes which were not bodily washed away into the town and sea were buried under the accumulated débris, and the former courses followed by the water, when heavy rains occasionally occurred, were either altogether changed from their previous direction or transfigured from mere surface drains into deep and wide gorges.

A scientific survey of the whole area above referred to is now being made by Captain Alexander, of the Royal Engineers, and should a map be published by Her Majesty's Government, the Relief Committee would be grateful if permission could be granted that reduced copies might accompany this report, as nothing else could so vividly convey to a stranger the cause and effect of the calamity which they feel they can so feebly describe.*

What has so far been related, however, pales before the scene of utter confusion and ruin which was presented in Basseterre when daylight enabled one to comprehend the alarm, misery, despair, and horror which must have prevailed, when, in pitchy darkness, 231 souls were so suddenly hurried into eternity.

* Captain Alexander having been called off to the performance of other important work, it is not expected that the map referred to will be completed for some time to come.

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An eye-witness, by means of a hurricane lantern, saw the turbulent waters sweeping past his dwelling, and describes the heaviest rushes as passing in three mighty waves, with an interval of a few minutes between each, the result, most probably, of the successive ruptures of the gorges bordering on Monkey Hill, discharging therefrom the temporarily pent up rain falling around. He saw houses lifted from their foundations and broken to pieces, or borne away on the bosom of the swelling flood, and his fellow creatures, sometimes singly, sometimes in whole families, swept past in the resistless stream, without the possibility of his rendering assistance.

As soon as the water began to abate, and man could see and act, gentlemen exerted themselves in snatching from a watery grave the exhausted creatures who where struggling for their lives, and a few were thus saved from the very jaws of the grave. But, with daylight, death had claimed almost, if not all, his victims, the whole of whom had perished probably in the space of one or two hours.

It is unnecessary, and would be uninteresting to those unacquainted with St Christopher, to describe the scene of confusion and, in some cases, the utter destruction of many places in the town of Basseterre; but for the future generation of Kittifonians it may be interesting to place on record that, from the low lying fields of the sugar estates named "Needsmust," "Canada," "College," "Shadwell," and "Greenland," over which the flood passed, large quantities of canes were either uprooted and carried away to the sea, or were buried in the sand: that houses and shops in Basseterre were torn from their foundations by the waters rushing down through all the intervening ground between the Cunningham Hospital on the west, and the Temple and Pall Mall Square on the east, discharging principally from Greenland Gut, the Market Gut, College Street, and Victoria Road, and either broken to pieces, carried out to sea, or scattered about the town in every direction, so that, what with the removal of land marks and the deposition of millions of tons of sand, terras, and stones, varying from one to twelve feet deep, it was most difficult to find one's way, the only successful plan being to pause and catch sight of some familiar object to guide oneself to his destination.

The water pipes in town and country were shattered in several places, and half a million of gallons of water emptied from the reservoir at Buckley's. Government House was little injured, but further down College Street the walls to the eastward were broken down, the flood washing through the Poore Memorial School and the Wesleyan premises, and over that part of the town to the Temple and Pall Mall Square. The Church wall to the west was totally destroyed, the water then washing over the churchyard, covering it many feet deep in sand, and knocking down the greater portion of the south wall and railings, and a portion of the east wall. The Treasury was undermined and barely escaped destruction, and our beautiful square was, for the time, completely destroyed.

The Bay Road was impassable, owing to enormous gaps having been washed out between the houses and the sea. The Import Pier was left on dry land and a vast peninsula of sand was formed immediately to the westward of the Treasury, which however is gradually disappearing.

In the country the "Key" and the "Canada" bridges were destroyed, and all the road thence to town much injured, especially at "Conaree," where it was carried into the swamps. The retaining wall of Johnson's Causeway was washed away; the road at "Duport's" Ravine destroyed, while, at West Farm and Lynch's Ravines much damage was sustained, and enormous quantities of large stones thrown down behind the buildings of the former of these estates. A bridge to the north of Miliken estate and three on Oliver's estate were knocked to pieces, and the public road round Monkey Hill and that from St. Peter's to town were greatly damaged.

Immediate steps were taken by the Government to recover the bodies of the dead and have them decently interred. Forty-two were buried the same day, 14 on Tuesday, 25 on Wednesday, 18 on Thursday, three on Friday, and one on Saturday, as they were recovered or dug out from the sand or the cellars where they had perished. Subsequently seven other bodies were discovered, vizt., one on the 24th, and two on the 29th January, two on the 7th February, one on the 13th, and one on the 16th March, and 16 at the Island of Saint Eustatius, so that in all 116 bodies were buried, and 115 were missing, making a sad total of 231, as above stated, who lost their lives in this melancholy manner.

As is usual in similar occasions there were wonderful escapes, some of which it may be well to mention.

1. A woman was carried out to sea, and, being a good swimmer, she sustained herself in the water till daybreak, when she was picked up by a boat between this Island and Nevis.
2. Two women were similarly carried out to sea, and, securing a shutter and a piece of board, were picked up next morning between St. Kitts and St. Eustatius, one of whom was safely delivered next morning of a child.
3. A man was picked up in the sea near Half Way Tree, with broken ribs, and subsequently recovered in the hospital.
4. A boy floating on a plank, with a duck as his companion, was saved near Old Road; and
5. A white girl was taken out to sea from Irish Town and was also saved by a boat the following morning.

The repair of the water pipes and the clearing of the town were at once commenced. The former work was effected in the space of three weeks, and traffic into town by the main roads was opened on the 11th March, but much in the latter direction remains to be done ere the pretty little town of Basseterre can resume its former appearance.

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One is naturally curious to know what was the rainfall on this occasion, but, for that purpose, the usual pluviameters were insufficient. The only reliable information which the Committee has been able to procure is comprised in the following instances:—

1. A boat of the barque "Claribel" of Glasgow had been, on the evening of the 11th January, attached to the stern of the vessel, and at daylight of the 12th it was found sunk to the gunwale filled with rainwater.
2. A similar occurrence was observed in the cases of the boats attached to the sterns of the barque "Pactolus," of London, and the brig "Amber Nymph," also of London.
3. A round iron tank at Buckley's estate, of the same diameter throughout, and twenty-eight inches deep, was found at daylight overflowing, it being where it could have received no water but from the Heavens. How much more rain fell cannot be ascertained, but judging from the circumstances mentioned, the Committee believe that they cannot be far wrong in estimating the rainfall, during the night of the 11th and morning of the 12th January, at not less than between 30 and 40 inches, the great bulk of which was precipitated within three hours.

It is known that 1 inch of rain in the pluviameter gives 22,867 gallons per acre. Assuming that 35 inches of rain fell, it follows that in round numbers, 35,000,000 tons of water fell over a surface of 15 square miles; one fourth of which, or say, about 8,000,000 tons, must have been shed or drained upon the town of Basseterre.

On the afternoon of the 12th January, the President called a public meeting, for the purpose of forming a Relief Committee, and the following gentlemen attended:—

His Honour President Moir, C.M.G.

Hon. J. S. Berridge, Esq.	Hon. W. W. Reid, Esq.
C. Grey Evelyn, Esq.	L. M. Kortright, Esq.
W. Padmore, Esq.	T. W. Meggs, Esq.
O. F. Plagemann, Esq.	A. Kearney, Esq.
J. Kearney, Esq.	T. P. Berridge, Esq.

Robert Smith, Esq.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

It having been ascertained that accommodation can be supplied to about 130 destitute people in the Poore Memorial, the Moravian, and the Wesleyan school rooms, it is resolved,

"That the ministers of religion, the district medical officers, and the members of Committee now present, shall have power to issue relief tickets to destitute sufferers from the recent calamity, especially to those in the immediate want of food.

"That Mrs. Thompson be employed to prepare daily a good and substantial meal, equal to that issued to the prisoners in gaol, and that she be paid wages for this duty at the rate of $16 per month."

The President then divided the town into five districts and appointed certain gentlemen to form sub relief committees, requesting them to inquire into the damage done in their respective districts. The districts and members for each were as follows:—

District No. 1. Hon. and Ven. Archdeacon Gibbs.
C. Grey Evelyn, Esq.
„ No. 2. Rev. T. E. Zippel.
Hon. H. R. P. Schooles, Esq.
„ No. 3. Rev. T. M. Chambers, A.M.
F. Gunton, Esq..
„ No. 4. W. Williams, Esq.
Geo. Horne, Esq.
„ No. 5. Wm. Padmore, Esq.
Robert Smith, Esq.

At a subsequent meeting the estimated value of houses destroyed was reported to be 5,000*l.*; of houses injured, 2,500*l.*; and of other property, 1,500*l.* In all, 9,000*l.*

At a meeting held on the 19th January, it was reported by Mrs. Thompson that very many of those receiving food relief were not entitled to it, and that many were able to work and help themselves.

The following resolution was proposed and adopted:—

"That a sub-committee be appointed to meet to-morrow in the Court House, at 1 o'clock, to inquire into the eligibility of the persons who had during the past week been receiving poor relief, and that the names of such persons as are capable of working be eliminated from the list, and that they be required to work for wages. That such persons as do not seem to the Committee to be able to work be paid—adults, 4*d.*, and children of 12 years and under, 3*d.* per head per diem. That those who appear to the Committee entirely undeserving of public charity be summarily struck off the list."

Whereupon the President appointed the following gentlemen to form a sub-committee:—

The President.

Mr. R. Smith. | Mr. A. Kearney.
Mr. Geo. Horne. | Mr. Chas. Evelyn.

Mr. F. Gunton.

At the next meeting the Committee were informed by the sub-committee that they had given relief to 143 persons, including children.

This system of money relief in lieu of food was continued till the 1st May, the money being distributed twice a week by the Secretary, Mr. C. Grey Evelyn. The sub-committee met as often as called upon by the Secretary to eliminate from the list of recipients those whom they thought no longer entitled to help The total sum spent on food and money relief amounted to 106*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* in addition to that granted by the Government.

Finding that liberal contributions, locally and from abroad, were coming in, it was resolved at a meeting held on 26th January,

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"That those gentlemen who had been told off to the several districts to inquire into the damage done to the tenements of the poor which had been overturned and embedded in the sand, be authorized to employ sufficient labour to replace those tenements, if possible on their original sites, in order that the repairs necessary to be made be decided on. That those repairs be made in the most economical manner, so as to make the tenements habitable, and that those houses which are but slightly damaged and not overturned be also valued for the purpose of being repaired.

"That the President associate himself with Mr. Kirton for the purpose of finding out where suitable lumber and shingles can be obtained on the most advantageous terms, and that these gentlemen be authorised to purchase such lumber and shingles from whatever source they may see fit."

The first work undertaken by the Committee was the restoring to their original sites such houses as had been removed from their foundations, or props, and the clearing out of the sand and débris from the yards of the sufferers.

On the 16th February Mr Kirton informed the Committee that a cargo of white pine lumber, amounting to 101,262 feet had been purchased. Two small lots of cypress shingles were also bought at wholesale prices, and pitch pine lumber and nails were procured, locally, at the most advantageous terms.

As suitable building material was now provided, the members, in their respective districts, commenced the repairing of those houses which had been injured by the flood.

This work was continued until the 29th March, when, at a meeting held on that day, reports were laid before the Committee, showing the work done, and what still remained to be executed.

The President then informed the Committee that he thought the time had now arrived to begin the building of new houses, to replace those totally destroyed. The members were therefore requested to gather all possible information concerning the houses lost, and their probable value.

At a meeting held on the 1st May, the reports on this subject were brought in. They contained the name of the owner of each house lost, its size, condition, and probable value, as far as could be ascertained. The reports were examined separately, and a fixed amount voted in each individual case.

After repairing the injured houses, there still remained on hand 55,413 feet of white pine lumber, which it was decided should be divided between the several districts, in the ratio of the amount of money voted for the rebuilding of houses, and that the lumber thus given should be used for the benefit of the most needy.

The members were allowed to exercise their own discretion, as to whether they should give the money and lumber to each individual, or build for the recipient.

At the close of May, the Committee had concluded their labour of rebuilding, and each member prepared a list of the names of those persons who had lost furniture, tools, clothing, &c., with

the approximate value of such chattels; 100*l.* was then granted to each district to assist in recouping these losses.

Further contributions having been received, a meeting was called on the 28th July, when an additional grant of 29*l.* was made to each district, for the above purpose.

Besides money contributions, several boxes of clothing were forwarded from the various West Indian Islands to the Relief Committee, and private individuals. These were duly distributed and most gratefully received. The Committee think they ought specially to notice that, the poor labouring population of the little neighbouring Island of Saint Eustatius sent their mite in the shape of 40 barrels of yams, for their suffering fellow creatures.

The labours of the Committee extended over a period of six months, during which time 19 meetings were held, and the following work was executed:—

District.	No. of Houses repaired.	No. of Houses restored.	No. of Persons received Remuneration for Chattels.
No. 1 -	45	24	147
„ 2 -	49	26	185
„ 3 -	43	19	112
„ 4 -	58	20	170
„ 5 -	52	13	128
	247	102	742

Although aware that the President has personally acknowledged the several donations received from the mother country, the sister Colonies, foreign places, and private individuals, the Relief Committee cannot close this Report without expressing their very high appreciation of the kindness and generosity which prompted so many to send such liberal and substantial aid to the surviving sufferers from the disastrous flood. They have endeavoured to the best of their ability, to carry out the wishes of the donors, and they believe they have succeeded in a very appreciable manner in satisfying the just claims of all the most needy, without distinction.

The sufferers have received about 50 per cent. of their estimated losses, while the money spent upon public works by the Government must have tended to the immediate benefit of the labouring population, by affording them the pecuniary means of purchasing many of the necessaries of which they had been so suddenly deprived.

President's Office,
St. Christopher,
14th September 1880.

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APPENDIX.

Statement showing the Receipts and Expenditure under the "Flood Relief Fund."

		£	s.	d.
To London Relief Committee, by Lord Bishop of Antigua		303	18	6
„ London, by Messrs. Sendall and Wade		154	17	0
„ Glasgow, by Messrs. Sendall and Wade		50	0	0
„ Demerara, by J. R. C. Hill, Esq.		535	0	6½
„ Trinidad, by Town Council		100	0	0
„ Do. by Mayor, Port of Spain		62	10	0
„ Do. by Mrs. Lynch		31	5	0
„ Do. by Mayor of San Fernando		187	3	3
„ Do. by Lodge Eastern Star		5	0	0
„ Do. by Rev. Turpin		1	0	10
„ Do. by Rev. Huggins		5	0	0
„ Do. by Lodge Royal Trinity		25	0	0
„ Barbados, by Lord Bishop		134	2	10½
„ Do. by J. J. Howell, Esq.		41	14	3
„ Do. by J. Lynch, Esq.		354	17	0½
„ Do. by W. H. Jones, Esq.		21	1	8
„ Guadeloupe, by Governor Couturier		487	2	10½
„ Do. Bunyan Van Romondt and Co.		125	19	3
„ St. Lucia, by Administrator Dix		121	10	7
„ Do. by Rev. Græme		8	12	6
„ St. Vincent, by Governor Dundas		58	10	6½
„ Do. by Archdeacon Laborde		18	6	9
„ Do. by Rev. Liel Smith		7	18	4
„ Do. by Rev. George Sykes		64	11	8
„ Do. by Good Templars		6	6	8
„ Dominica, by President Eldridge		47	13	3
„ Grenada, by Lieut.-Governor Maling		171	8	9
„ Do. by Lieut.-Governor Harley, C.B., C.M.G.		60	9	8
„ Tobago, by Lieut.-Governor Gore		12	1	7
„ Do. by Rev. T. W. Roberts		8	0	0
„ Jamaica, by Lieut.-Governor Newton, C.M.G.		10	0	0
„ Jamaica, by Miss Eleanore Newton		5	0	0
„ Do. by Rev. J. Suttar		1	0	0
„ Do. by M. Solman, Esq., Custos, St. Ann		28	18	6
„ Antigua, by Archdeacon Branch		155	4	8
„ Do. by Lodge Mount Lebanon		5	0	0
„ Do. by T. Cleghorn, Esq.		5	7	6
„ Do. by Amateur Dramatic Co.		30	0	0
„ Jamaica, by H. J. Kemble, Custos, Kingston		34	3	0
„ Nevis, by Legislative Council		150	0	0

	£	s.	d.
To Nevis, by Collection, St. Paul - -	1	18	0
„ Do. Collection, St. Thomas - -	1	0	10
„ St. Martin's, by Governor and Bussche -	17	19	5½
„ St. Eustatius, by Governor Groebë -	10	0	6
„ St. Croix, by Rev. Dodsworth - -	10	8	4
„ Do. by Rev. Dubois - -	5	4	2
„ St. Thomas, by E. A. Kirton, Esq. -	112	6	2
„ Do. by Rev. R. Hutson - -	1	13	2
„ Do. by Association of Spiritualists -	5	4	2
„ Montserrat, by President Porter - -	55	0	0
„ Do. by Rev. Gangneux - -	1	14	0
„ Totola, by Rev. H. Semper - -	4	2	5
„ Porto Plata, by British Consul - -	22	18	4
„ Anguila, by C. T. H. Kettridge - -	2	19	0
„ Collected, S. R. Mercer, Esq. - -	2	19	11
„ Sombrero, Phosphate Co. - - -	10	0	0
„ J. K. Dinzey, Esq., M.D. - - -	3	2	6
„ W. F. Littledale, Esq. (Dublin) - -	5	0	0
„ Crown Preserve Co., S. L. Horsford, Esq. -	3	3	0
„ Small sums collected by P. A. Wade, Esq. -	3	10	0
„ Small sums collected - - -	0	12	0½
„ Offertory, St. Mary and Christ Church -	5	14	0
„ Governor Berkeley, C.M.G. - -	50	0	0
„ "Nemo Steamer," Eider - - -	1	0	0
„ President Moir, C.M.G. - - -	5	0	0
„ Edwin Baynes Jer, Esq. - - -	1	0	0
„ Sir Graham Briggs, Bart. - - -	5	0	0
„ Collection, St. George's Church - -	10	3	1
„ S. M. Kortwright, Esq. - - -	2	0	0
„ Samuel Baird, Esq. - - -	5	0	0
„ Thomas Corfield, Esq. - - -	2	1	8
„ L. A. E. MacKinnon, Esq. - -	1	0	10
„ Colonial Bank (St. Kitts) - - -	20	16	8
„ Offertory, St. Peter's Church - -	4	9	7
„ Archdeacon Gibbs - - -	5	0	0
„ J. W. Branch, Esq., M.D. - -	5	0	0
„ Mount Olive Lodge (St. Kitts) - -	10	8	4
„ Messrs. Archer Brothers & Co. - -	5	0	0
„ A. R. H. Gunton, Esq. - -	1	0	10
„ S. G. Slack, Esq. - - - -	0	5	0
„ T. W. Meggs, Esq. - -	1	0	10
„ Capt. Jonaason - - - -	0	12	6
„ L. Littlejohn - - -	0	10	0
„ J. W. Thurston, Esq. - - -	1	0	10
„ President Churchill (Nevis) - -	3	0	0
„ Edward Maynard, Esq. - - -	1	0	0
„ Robert Dovoren, Esq. - - -	0	4	0
„ Mrs. Archer - - - -	3	10	0
„ Montserrat Co., Birmingham - -	5	0	0

St. Kitts.

	£	s.	d.
To Bankhead, Hill & Co., London - -	10	0	0
„ Thos. G. Appleton, Esq., and Mrs. McIntosh, Boston - - - - -	20	0	0
„ Hon. E. D. Baynes, C.M.G. - -	5	0	0
„ Edward Baynes, Esq. - - -	2	1	8
„ Vice-Admiral Sir F. Leopold McClintock, F.R.S. - - - - -	5	0	0
„ Offertory, St. Paul and St. John - -	3	10	10½
„ Warburg & Co., Manchester - -	3	3	0
„ Forwarded by Colonial Bank, London—			
A. Semple, Esq. - - -	2	0	0
H. Armstrong - - - -	3	3	0
R. G. Morrice, Esq. - - -	5	5	0
W. B. Lilly, Esq. - - -	0	10	0
Miss B. Walker - - -	1	1	0
W. P. B. Shepherd, Esq. - -	2	2	0
C. W. Earle, Esq. - - -	5	0	0
J. L. M. - - - -	2	10	0
„ Collected by E. T. Evelyn, Esq. - -	2	4	9
„ Henry Boothe, Esq. - - -	1	0	0
„ Two Friends in London, by S. L. Horsford	2	10	0
„ St. Anne's Church, Sandy Point - -	8	1	8
„ Collected by J. W. C. Gordon, Esq. -	0	6	2
„ Forwarded by Colonial Bank, London—			
A.B.C. - - - - -	1	0	0
Caroline Tyndall - - -	5	0	0
Wilkinson & Gadiller - - -	5	0	0
G. T. - - - - -	1	0	0
„ Collected by Miss Trottie King - -	3	15	0
„ B. B. Green, Esq. - - - -	25	0	0
„ Collected by Solomon Shelford - -	5	0	0
„ Collected by J. Gould, Esq. - -	6	17	0
„ John Bramston, Esq. - - -	5	0	0
„ H. E. Crum Ewing, Esq. - - -	10	0	0
„ His Excellency Governor Sir Henry Irving, K.C.M.G. - - - -	10	8	4
„ Ceceil Montgomerie, Esq. - - -	10	0	0
„ Executors late Sir H. Blake - -	10	0	0
„ J. Waddell, Esq. - - - -	1	0	10
„ W. J. Branch, Esq., M.D., fees for Death Certificates - - - -	10	0	0
	4,266	1	6
By food and money relief - - -	106	13	6
„ lumber, shingles, and nails - - -	835	17	5½
„ removal and repair of houses - -	928	11	4
„ gratuity paid boatmen at Old Road for saving life - - - -	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Paid Mr. Pryor for delivering lumber, shingles, and nails - - - -	23	15	0
By rebuilding houses - - - -	1,518	7	6½
Tools, furniture, &c. - - - -	812	6	8
Clerical assistance - - - -	22	1	8
Printing, &c. - - - - -	4	0	0
By balance in hand - - - -	9	8	4
	4,266	1	6

STATEMENT showing the Receipts and Expenditure from the General Revenue under the Flood account to the 18th September 1880.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To warrants on Treasury -				5,678	18	3
By burial and relief - -	126	9	8			
„ clearing and mending streets of Basseterre - -	3,005	12	6			
„ church wall and Poore Memorial School - -	303	1	1			
„ clearing and mending roads -	536	15	8			
„ repairs to Export Wharf -	23	15	8			
„ repairs to Import Wharf -	8	1	0			
„ water supply - -	231	17	8			
„ Treasury Buildings - -	18	2	7			
„ Milliken Bridge - -	54	6	10			
„ Canada Bridge and retaining walls - - -	258	12	11			
„ Key Bridge - -	467	0	10			
„ market and slaughter-house -	182	1	1			
„ Government House walls -	62	5	3			
„ additional constables -	28	7	6			
„ Johnstons Ravine - -	250	0	0			
„ petty expenses - -	11	13	0			
„ Mardenborough retaining walls - - -	50	0	0			
„ wheelbarrows - -	60	15	0			
				5,678	18	3

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No. 13.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
MY LORD, June 22, 1881.

REFERRING to my Despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to forward the report from the Acting President of Nevis on the Blue Book of that Island for the year 1880.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of NEVIS for the year 1880.

Legislation.

During the year 1880 there were 12 Ordinances passed.

Nos. 1, 11, 12, related to the expenditure of this and the past year.

No. 2 is an important measure providing for the destruction of rats. In consequence of the great damage done by this vermin to the sugar cane, it was found necessary to encourage persons to destroy them, and a rate of 1*d.* per tail was fixed by the Ordinance, and is paid at the several police stations. On each visit of the Police Magistrate the tails are counted and destroyed in his presence, and the books are at the same time verified by him.

Nos. 3 and 4, are for the purpose of fixing and regulating the excise duty on rum. The rate per proof gallon was at 2*s.* 6*d.* until the 9th August, when it was reduced to 1*s.* The reduction has in a slight measure tended to increase the quantity on which duty is received, and as the rate is now placed at so low a figure, it is expected to lessen the inducements, and temptations to defraud.

Ordinance 5 provides for the repair of the public roads, and appoints an Assistant Surveyor.

No. 6 exempts from tonnage duties steam vessels bringing or taking mails. This Ordinance was specially introduced to encourage steam communication between this and the United Kingdom.

Nos. 7, 8, 9, are of minor importance, and slightly amend former Ordinances.

No. 10 provides for taking the census of 1881.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The following tabulated form shows in detail a comparative statement of the Revenue of the Presidency between this and the preceding year:—

Comparative Statement of Revenue for the Years 1879 *and* 1880.

—	1879.			1880.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs:—						
Imports - - - - -	5,308	3	1	4,763	17	1
Exports - - - - -	924	16	8½	438	8	8½
Tonnage and package - - -	445	12	4	248	3	4½
Stamp duties - - - - -	95	15	2	89	8	0
Excise - - - - - -	960	0	1½	925	7	1
Licenses:—						
Rum and Liquor - - - -	284	0	0	245	0	0
Boatmen and Porters - - -	23	8	0	17	16	0
Auctioneers - - - -	10	0	0	5	0	0
Boat - - - - -	42	0	0	80	6	2
Dog - - - - -	22	16	0	44	8	0
Gun - - - - -	8	10	0	5	0	0
Metal - - - - -	1	0	0	0	2	0
Petroleum - - - - -	0	19	0	0	11	0
Taxes:—						
Land - - - - -	419	3	1	443	7	10½
Horse and carriage - - - -	471	15	1	478	17	0
Additional tax on land - -		—		160	12	4½
Fines and penalties - - - -	178	12	2	117	8	6½
Fees of offices - - - - -	140	5	1	208	18	6½
Fees of Post Office - - - -	84	19	10½	75	17	4
Rents received - - - - -	10	2	5	5	13	4½
Miscellaneous - - - - -	14	14	10½	29	17	0½
Fees of hospital - - - - -	1	0	0	6	12	0
Total - - - -	9,447	13	0	8,390	11	6

The diminution in 1880 of 1,057*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* has been entirely due to the drought which affected the Island during that portion of the year when rain is most requisite to the growing crops.

Under the head of imports and exports alone the decrease was over1,030*l.* while the falling off under the other items of Revenue was 367*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.* But for an unexpected increase of 341*l.* 4*s.* 10½*d.* of which 160*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* had been contributed by the additional tax on land, and over 68*l.* from fees of offices, the entire loss for the year would have reached 1,398*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.*

The immigration tax, which was imposed in 1872, and is exclusively for the purpose of defraying the cost of the introduction of Coolie labour, gave during the year 521*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, and the amount to the credit of this fund on 31st December 1880 was 1,268*l.* 2*s.* 11½*d.*

The other items of Revenue vary but little, and require no special remarks. With the exception of the reduction in the excise

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duty, and the imposition of the small additional tax on land, the rates of duties and taxes remain the same.

Expenditure.

The estimated Expenditure for 1880 was fixed at 7,491*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* and the amount actually disbursed was 8,198*l.* 14*s.* In order to show clearly the particulars of Expenditure, I subjoin the following statement comparing 1879 with 1880:—

Comparative Statement of Expenditure between the Years 1879 *and* 1880.

	1879.			1880.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
No. 1. Fixed Establishments:—						
President	496	11	4	271	3	6
Treasury	686	3	4½	693	11	0½
Post Office	40	15	8	70	14	5
Superintendent Public Works	130	0	0	180	0	0
Clerk of Council	50	0	0	50	0	0
„ Magistrate	100	0	0	112	0	0
Marshal and Registrar	342	10	0	350	0	0
Bailiff, Summary Jurisdiction Court	48	6	4	50	0	0
Ecclesiastical	399	15	2	263	16	0
Police	773	0	9	792	13	11
Gaol	186	12	5	175	0	0
Medical relief	600	0	0	600	0	0
Federal contributions	979	15	0	898	7	2
„ 2. Pensions	103	18	8	103	18	8
„ 4. Administration of Justice	20	10	0	20	11	2
„ 6. Hospitals	654	17	9	592	7	7½
„ 7. Education	273	8	6	293	15	0
„ 9. Police and gaols	230	10	2	222	19	5
„ 10. Rents	117	6	0	117	4	9
„ 12. Conveyance of mails	31	8	0	54	14	6
„ 13. Works and buildings	209	16	2½	185	11	6
„ 14. Roads and bridges	688	19	3	1,279	19	9½
„ 15. Miscellaneous	482	10	8	412	2	8½
„ 16. Interest	32	10	8	3	0	0
„ 17. Repayment of loans	1,400	0	0	—		
„ 19. Board of Health	11	14	0	48	6	7
St. Kitts Relief Fund	—			150	0	0
Destroying rats	—			101	9	10
Erection of school, grant	—			95	0	0
Withdrawal of sheevies	218	2	11	10	6	5
Drawback	20	18	0	—		
Total	9,330	0	10	8,198	14	0

Increase of an extraordinary amount will be observed in the following:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Assistant Superintendent Public Works	50	0	0
Roads and bridges	591	0	6½
Grant to sufferers by flood at St. Kitts	150	0	0
Destroying of rats	101	9	10
Erection of schoolroom at St. George	95	0	0

The increase under Superintendent of Public Works occurs for the first time this year in consequence of the creation of the office of Assistant Superintendent.

The large outlay on roads and bridges had been for many years necessary, and want of funds was all that delayed the improvements and repairs being carried out.

150*l.* was voted by the Legislative Council towards relieving the sufferers by the flood of St. Kitts.

The remaining items show for what purposes the sums have been expended.

On comparison with 1879, decrease to a large extent will be noticed in—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
President - - - -	225	7	10
Ecclesiastical - - -	135	19	2
Hospitals - - - -	62	10	1
Federal contribution - -	80	7	10

Under the head of President it would without explanation appear that there had been a considerable saving during the year, the amount however was merely an accumulation of half salary due to President Salmon, which has since been paid.

The death of Dr. Bovell, Rector of St. Paul, and also that of the sexton, decreases the ecclesiastical stipends by 151*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, and reduces the annual State support of the Anglican Church to 239*l.* 15*s.*

The reduction from 1,800*l.* to 1,500*l.* in the salary of the Chief Justice, has in a measure tended to lessen the cost of the Federal establishment.

The saving under hospitals may be attributed to the healthy condition of the Island during the year under review.

Financial.

On the 31st December 1880, the balance to the credit of the Island was 1,077*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and when it is particularly pointed out that there was at that time no debt, and scarcely an outstanding liability beyond the amount due to President Salmon, the financial condition of the Presidency may be considered as most satisfactory. It is possible that with one or two years of favourable weather, improvements that are now only in contemplation may be finally carried out.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the former during the year was 30,546*l.* 5*s.* against 38,812*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* in 1879.

From the above figures it would appear as if there had been a falling off in the value of importations during 1880 of over 8,000*l.* This, however, in a great measure arose from the fact that many of the articles calculated at official values were placed in former years at much too high a rate, and were considerably reduced in

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1880. Comparing such articles as bread and fish stuffs, it will be seen that the importations of the two years are almost alike. Lumber and estates stores, it is to be regretted, compare very unfavourably with the former year. While the importations of white and pitch pine in 1879 exceeded 500,000 feet, those of 1880 barely turned 230,000 feet, or fell off to the extent of 50 per cent. The decrease in the importations of this article can be readily understood when attention is drawn to the short crop made in 1880.

Exports.

The export trade of the Island being solely restricted to sugar and its product molasses, the value of exports is entirely dependent on the amount of rain that may fall. In order to show how unfavourable the past year has been in this respect, I give a short return comparing 1879 with 1880.

1879.

	£	s.	d.
4,468½ hogsheads sugar - - -	66,780	0	0
2,296½ puncheons molasses - -	9,054	0	0
44 puncheons rum - - -	490	0	0
	76,324	0	0

1880.

	£	s.	d.
2,236 hogsheads sugar - - -	33,552	10	0
825 puncheons molasses - - -	3,300	0	0
	36,852	10	0

The amount of produce shipped to the United States of America shows within the past few years a slight increase, and the few proprietors whose estates are not bound to English merchants dispose of their crops to purchasers for the American markets, and realize an advance of 2*l.* or 3*l.* per hogshead on the price obtained in England.

Shipping.

The tonnage of vessels entering inwards during the past year was 6,847, and the departing tonnage for the same period was 6,913. These figures do not literally represent the shipping of the port, as nearly a fifth of the imports and a great portion of the exports are conveyed from and to St. Kitts by unregistered boats that do not enter at the Customs; their carrying capacity is therefore not included in the tonnage returns.

Within the year the community has been much benefited by the Scrutton line making this Island a port of call. Until Mr. Thibou, the Provost Marshal and Registrar of Courts, commenced corresponding with the directors of the above-named company, the Island was entirely unassociated with steam communication.

Education.

In order to show the advancement made in this respect, it is but necessary to quote the following remarks made by the Inspector General of Schools in his last annual report.

1. "The condition of the schools in this Presidency is still most satisfactory."

2. "The daily average attendance has increased from 406 in 1875 to 724 in 1880, or over 78 per cent."

3. "St. George's Anglican school maintains its position as a first-class school at the head of the list in order of merit. So many children, together with their parents and friends, were present at the examination, that I was compelled to remove into the adjoining church and churchyard. The rector is collecting funds for the purpose of erecting a new and suitable schoolroom on a piece of land given for the purpose by Sir F. G. Briggs Bart. I visited the spot and found the stone basement completed, the dimensions being 50 feet by 25. 293*l.* 15*s.* was the amount of Government aid earned by the schools during the past year."

Public Works.

With the exception of the expenditure of 249*l.* on the part erection of a bridge over the ravine known as Budge Ghaut, there has been no work of a nature demanding special remark. The main circular road is now in a most satisfactory condition, and the branch roads have been in a great measure improved. The total amount expended during the year, including the bridge above-mentioned, was 1,279*l.* 19*s.* 9½*d.*

Criminal Statistics.

It is satisfactory to remark that under this head in the Blue Book, the offences and convictions for the year show a slight diminution as compared to 1879; comparison, however, with the two former years shows a greater mark of improvement. No crimes of a serious nature were committed during the year, and the longest sentence imposed was for three months. The daily average of prisoners in gaol was about 10, against 13 in the previous year, and the health of the prisoners was throughout the year most satisfactory.

Emigration and Immigration.

In consequence of the proximity of St. Kitts, and the almost hourly departure of small boats to that Island, it is impossible to give even an approximate return of the number of persons who leave for that place. The following will, therefore, include only those who went to places other than the one excepted.

During the year 1880 there were 190 of the native population and 16 Coolies who emigrated from the Island. The bulk of

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these departures was for Trinidad, and does not represent field or estate labour, but is principally composed of petty traders, menial servants, and handicraftsmen. These persons remain away for a year or two, when they usually return with a few fine suits, showy trinkets, and sufficient money to keep them in idleness for a short time. This appears to be their sole ambition, and as soon as their funds are exhausted they are again ready to start.

There was no immigration during the year.

General.

The Island of Nevis being so small and of such minor importance, there is usually an absence of any work or improvement demanding special remark, and in this respect the year 1880, has, like those preceding it, passed without circumstance worthy of note.

If comment be made on the mode of agriculture usually followed, censure must of necessity be passed on the proprietary body for their want of enterprise. With the exception of Sir F. G. Briggs, Bart., who is endeavouring to introduce and establish coffee, cocoa, and limes, no attempt at change is made. The system of ratooning canes for a succession of years is continued to a great extent, and the regular application of natural manure appears quite a secondary consideration; artificial manure is restricted to some half dozen plantations.

It is a curious fact that with 4,000 or 5,000 acres of arable land capable of producing potatoes, yams, &c., Nevis is in the respect of vegetables almost entirely dependent on the neighbouring Islands. This certainly cannot be attributed to drought, and appears a matter demanding the attention of the planters.

The health of the Island throughout the year has been good, and, with the exception of a few cases of whooping cough among children, there has been no epidemic of a marked feature.

(Signed) W. D. AUCHINLECK,
Acting President.

Nevis,
June 14, 1881.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 14.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
March 29, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1880, together with the President's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1880.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

No alterations have lately been made in the amount or incidence of taxation. Of fixed sources of revenue, the most important are the customs duties. Small amounts are also collected on the following:

Licenses.—For boats.
" " retail of spirits.
" " auctioneers.
" " wrecking.

Land Tax.—A small tax on land of 2*d.* per acre in Tortola and 1*d.* per acre in the other inhabited islands, and of halfpenny per acre in uninhabited islands.

House Tax.—An assessed tax on houses of 7½ per cent. on the renting value, if over 5*l.*, on all others, 2*s.* per annum.

Dog Tax.—Under same Ordinance as above a tax on dogs of 3*s.*

Fees of office, fines, and forfeitures.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Return of revenue receipts in each year from 1876–1880 *inclusive.*

—	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Net revenue.	2,049 9 0½	1,334 17 7	1,536 11 3	1,589 5 0	2,247 13 8

Return of revenue receipts from 1876–1880 *under principal heads of collection.*

Year.	Customs.	Licenses.	Taxes.	Incidental.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	927 2 9½	225 4 4	310 19 10	586 2 1
1877	799 6 3	148 2 8	249 6 11	138 1 9
1878	892 11 4	168 9 8	246 13 1	228 17 2
1879	969 15 9	177 4 1	275 15 8	166 9 6
1880	1,082 14 2	170 14 0	138 6 1	855 19 5

On reference to the above tabular returns it will be seen that the total revenue receipts for 1876 and 1880 were larger than usual, but that the increase in each of those years was chiefly to be ascribed to "incidental" receipts.

These sometimes arise, as was the case in 1876, from the duties levied by Government upon the sale of cargoes of wrecked vessels, but for the past year (1880) they are to be accounted for as follows:—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Arrears - -	135 3 4	
Post office, fines, and other receipts -	220 16 1	
		355 19 5
Purchase money paid for 2,000 acres of land at Virgin Gorda - -		500 0 0

The last mentioned is scarcely more than an item of account, much of the purchase money having been paid away to the former owners of the land, deducting only arrears of tax at 1*d.* per acre with interest and costs.

On a comparison of the past two years, if incidental receipts are eliminated from the account, the actual revenue from fixed sources will stand:

For 1879, at 1,422*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*
„ 1880, at 1,391*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

Showing a decrease in the latter year of 31*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*

Receipts from customs show a satisfactory increase in 1880 over those of the previous year of 112*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, but the produce of direct taxation has fallen off from 275*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* in 1879 to 138*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* in 1880.

Showing a decrease for the past year of 137*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*

The subjoined tabular return of the annual expenditure from 1876–1880 shows that the disbursement in 1880 exceeded those of the previous four years.

This is to be accounted for by the payments of salaries which had fallen into arrears, and also, as before noticed, by the money received for sale of Government lands being made over to the former proprietors, or their heirs, on application.

Return of Annual Expenditure 1876–1880.

1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
2,039 17 1½	1,329 6 11	1,496 6 0	1,501 16 2	2,180 9 0

Population and vital Statistics.

Emigration from the British "Virgin Islands" to centres of greater industrial activity has been constant, and it is probable that the census to be taken in April will demonstrate that the population has much diminished since the census of 1871.

An abstract of births and deaths for the year 1880 is appended.

Births during the year 1880.

District.	Year.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Total.
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
A - -	1880	8	4	9	7	28
B - -	„	12	6	6	—	24
C - -	„	5	6	5	3	19
D - -	„	15	25	16	18	74
E - -	„	5	—	3	9	17
F - -	„	4	4	6	6	20
		49	45	45	43	182

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Deaths during the Year 1880.

District.	Under 1 year.		From 1 to 10 years.		From 11 to 20 years.		From 21 to 30 years.		From 31 to 40 years.		From 41 to 50 years.		From 51 to 60 years.		From 61 to 70 years.		Upwards of 70 years.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
A -	2	0	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	9	1
B -	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	7	5
C -	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
D -	9	10	2	4	1	—	2	8	1	1	2	6	6	3	6	2	3	9	32	42
E -	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	3	1	6	5
F -	1	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	4
	19	16	6	7	2	—	6	10	1	2	5	7	9	3	6	3	8	10	62	58

Imports and Exports.

The following table shows the value in sterling of the total imports for the five years 1876–1880:—

—	1876.			1877.			1878.			1879.			1880.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Value of Imports.	2,774	18	2	3,856	7	3	4,171	11	10	3,851	9	6	4,268	14	11

They consist merely of supplies of food and clothing sufficient to meet the wants of the population from day to day and are brought almost exclusively from the neighbouring port of St. Thomas.

The only dutiable articles which have been imported during the last five years to the average yearly value of 50*l.* are beef, pork, &c., butter and lard, corn, meal, flour, linens and cottons, sugar, shoes, boots, and soap. Of the above-named imports, flour is the principal, and is imported to an amount which exceeds the collective value of all the others.

Lumber, shingles, and spars are admitted free of duty, and were imported in—

	£	s.	d.
1878 to the value of	566	10	3
1879 „ „	269	0	0
1880 „ „	445	4	3

The duty was remitted in order to encourage the rebuilding of tenements after the destructive hurricane of 1867.

No stores of lumber are ever accumulated, but small purchases are made at St. Thomas, as required.

Exports.

The total exports for the past year exceeded in value those of the four previous years, as shown in the subjoined.

Return showing value in sterling of yearly Exports from 1876–1880.

Total Exports.	1876.			1877.			1878.			1879.			1880.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Value -	4,773	8	6	4,763	17	2	6,328	4	6	5,260	7	1	5,147	3	8

The most valuable of the exports from these islands are the live stock of different kinds, and a reference to the following returns will make it apparent that this trade has been well maintained of late years.

Return of the numbers of the several kinds of Live Stock Exported annually 1876–1880.

——	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Cattle - -	435	348	289	320	374
Calves - -	399	558	641	680	668
Goats - -	2,053	2,280	1,772	1,559	1,633
Sheep - -	200	290	—	350	303
Pigs - - -	420	426	578	582	649

Return of total numbers and value of Live Stock Exported and Amount of Export Duty paid in each year, from 1876–1880.

——	Total number of live stock exported.	Aggregated value in Sterling.	Duty paid.
		£	£
1876 - - -	3,507	3,527	302
1877 - - -	3,902	3,472	306
1878 - - -	3,280	3,402	293
1879 - -	3,491	3,940	321
1880 - - -	3,627	4,047	321

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Other exports are insignificant in quantity and value, the principal are enumerated in the subjoined.

Return of the quantity of certain articles Exported during each Year from 1876–1880.

Produce.	Quantity Exported.				
	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.
Charcoal - -	9,002	8,587	11,119	10,359	12,322
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Cotton - -	1,999	2,387	32,175	2,600	1,018
Sugar Cane - -	33,181	41,425	78,950	59,175	13,937
	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.
„ Muscovado -	32½	7¾	225½	64½	47
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Potatoes - -	4,725	18,537	63,725	46,906	21,262
	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	
Salt - - -	1,000	673	50	1	—

The fishing trade is the most lucrative, about 80 boats and 320 men are usually employed in this traffic.

None of the fish are cured for export, but the boats sail direct from their fishing grounds to St. Thomas and St. Croix, at which ports a ready market for fresh fish is always to be found.

Agriculture.

Cotton and sugar cane, once the staple product of these islands, have now almost entirely dropped out of cultivation.

A few acres of level ground, here and there spreading out between the foot of the hills and the sea, are still in occupation as sugar estates, but little capital is expended on them, and the land cropped year after year without manure, and stinted in labour gives but a poor result in manufactured produce.

Rats also, which infest all the Leeward Islands, are to the full as destructive here as elsewhere.

Judging from the configuration of the land, which is mountainous throughout, the cultivation of the cane must alway have been very laborious, requiring the building of terraces along the steep hill sides, and it is not surprising that after the great hurricane of 1819, which destroyed all the sugar works and dwelling-houses in Tortola, most of the planters left the island with their slaves and capital in money to take up new ground in Trinidad and other colonies.

The estates then abandoned have never been re-occupied by white planters nor is it probable that sugar will again reach such a price as would make it profitable to invest capital in their purchase and cultivation.

The planter has been exceptionally favoured here, being free from every hindrance in the shape of excise or export duty on

his rum and sugar, and his land is taxed only at the same rate as uncultivated tracts of scrub, viz., at 2*d.* per acre, nevertheless sugar cultivation still languishes, and apparently is destined to extinction.

On such few estates as are now worked the metairie system is partly in force and partly payment by wages in money.

Wages vary somewhat, but are usually from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per diem.

Labour, however, could not be obtained at this price for any enterprise conducted on a large scale, as the labourers are themselves owners of land and do not care much to make money.

Cane is cultivated by the peasantry in small patches on their own lands. It is a favourite article of food, and considerable quantities are consumed yearly in the raw state.

Stock raising is the most profitable pursuit at present, and if carried out with more intelligence might be a source of wealth to the people.

The natural grass is excellent; it is very fattening and bears seasons of drought very well.

In some places the guinea grass formerly introduced has spread and entirely supplanted the indigenous grass, springing up luxuriantly wherever the bush is burnt and the ground thus cleared for its growth.

Owing to the rapidity with which land once abandoned here turns into jungle the greater part of the once highly cultivated land of Tortola is now covered with brushwood and scrubby trees.

Cattle are often turned out in these woods, but the pasture is scanty and poor in quality and the cattle cannot thrive.

At the western extremity of Tortola at an altitude of about 2,000 feet, a portion of the original forest remains, and contains some valuable species of hardwood.

Manufactures, Mines, &c.

The mineral deposits of Virgin Gorda which had ceased for some years to be turned to any account have again, after a long interval, attracted attention.

Mr. Godden, a gentleman well known for his large and successful mining operations, has purchased from the Government 2,000 acres at the cost of 500*l.*, and other extensive tracts belonging to private persons amounting altogether to 1,800 acres.

No workings have yet been opened nor any preparations made up to the present date.

J. SPENCER CHURCHILL,
President.

DOMINICA.

No. 15.

Governor Sir J. H. GLOVER, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, St. Kitts,
September 7, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1880, with the President's report thereon.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

PRESIDENCY of DOMINICA. REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for the Year 1881.

Finance.

The finances continue in an unsatisfactory state, not from want of vitality in the existing sources of revenue, but from the recurring demands upon these sources, without any augmentation of taxation.

The following figures exhibit in a concise form, the revenue, expenditure, and liabilities of the Presidency.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January 1st, balance in hand inclusive of arrears -				356	16	8½
Revenue 1879, collected during year :—						
Ordinary revenue - -	18,649	7	5½			
Revenue from special sources :—						
Yaws tax - - -	1,676	16	11			
Savings Bank - -	54	14	5			
Administrator of unrepresented estates - -	45	9	11			
Police reward fund - -	5	19	0			
				20,432	7	8½
				20,789	4	5
Ordinary expenditure - -	17,871	11	2½			
Arrears of expenditure 1879, paid	501	6	5			
Expenditure under special sources :—						
Yaws hospitals - -	1,882	18	3			
Savings Bank - -	307	14	1½			
Administrator of unrepresented estates - -	139	4	2½			
Police reward funds -	76	15	8			
				20,779	9	10½
Balance in hand -				9	14	6½

Other Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Waterworks loan - -	5,900	0	0			
Less sinking fund - -	630	0	0			
				5,270	0	0
Yaws loan - - - -				1,000	0	0
Escheat fund - - - -				615	0	0
Outstanding current liabilities - -				700	0	0
				7,585	0	0

One cause of these financial difficulties is the legacy of debt from year to year, requiring vigorous Legislation for its extinction, and the creation of a fair marginal credit balance to meet fluctuations of revenue and expenditure that must arise in small governments. The revenue was sufficient to meet all demands from the usual items of expenditure, although many of these were much increased, but the payment of the debts of 1879 caused an unarranged balance of current liabilities, which will now be met by a loan under Act No. 23, 1880.

The following figures show the extent of the payment on account of 1879 :—

	£	s.	d.
The ordinary revenue was - - -	18,649	7	5½
The ordinary expenditure was - - -	17,871	11	2½
	777	16	3

The payments on account of 1879 were :—

	£	s.	d.
Current liabilities, payments -	501	6	5
Arrears, revenue, receipts -	356	16	8½
	144	9	8½

Special Accounts.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Savings Bank, &c. payments - -	523	14	0						
Savings Bank, &c. receipts	106	3	4						
				417	10	8			
Yaws Hospital, payments	1,882	18	3						
*Tax for yaws, receipts	1,676	16	11						
				206	1	4	768	1	8½
Balance in hand 31st December 1880					-		-	9	14 6½

* Yaws tax was in credit at the end of 1879.

DOMINICA.

The revenue and expenditure for the past 10 years were as follows:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1871 - -	15,440	16,071
1872 - -	17,310	17,162
1873 - -	16,424	17,544
1874 - -	15,022	17,456
1875 - -	21,682	21,793
1876 - -	17,794	18,402
1877 - -	19,162	19,154
1878 - -	20,998	19,918
1879 - -	19,024	19,736
1880 - -	20,326	19,754

REVENUE, PRINCIPAL SOURCES (detailed for the past Ten Years).

—	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs -	8,374	8,989	8,395	7,682	8,975	8,787	8,203	9,455	9,556	10,269
Excise - -	2,587	3,106	2,717	2,533	2,849	2,469	2,609	2,434	2,460	2,904
Stamp duty -	—	—	—	—	—	207	352	332	364	358
Licenses -	1,121	1,411	1,319	1,054	1,201	1,167	1,118	1,191	1,217	1,365
Fines, penalties, &c. -	682	1,082	956	1,022	1,184	1,093	1,114	1,236	1,315	1,396
Rents - -	131	146	107	94	81	84	86	48	49	97
Taxes - -	694	737	684	831	688	787	912	715	683	705
Waterworks -	—	—	—	—	—	117	115	84	111	70
Road funds -	1,817	1,724	1,492	1,577	1,693	1,757	1,627	1,551	1,443	1,306

EXPENDITURE, PRINCIPAL SOURCES (detailed for the past Ten Years).

—	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876	1 877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Civil establishments -	1,983	2,234	2,480	2,228	2,014	3,015	2,752	2,011	2,401	2,411
Judicial -	2,334	2,281	2,245	2,722	2,815	3,097	2,824	2,631	2,620	2,644
Treasury -	1,436	1,591	1,632	1,519	1,501	1,522	1,310	1,462	1,042	1,028
Police - -	1,289	1,307	1,333	1,247	1,356	1,369	1,326	1,385	1,419	1,263
Gaol - -	550	553	571	624	630	824	773	772	353	321
Education -	769	740	708	635	673	785	725	786	954	987
Hospital -	1,500	1,557	1,545	1,951	2,024	1,778	1,632	1,713	1,954	1,766
Works and buildings - -	946	1,721	989	1,652	343	971	469	486	739	613
Roads and bridges	1,735	2,227	2,388	1,574	1,089	1,181	1,206	1,248	1,650	1,789
Lights and signals - -	103	126	138	156	159	195	176	115	144	129
Board of Health	461	914	59	153	59	31	29	89	51	201
Printing -	434	384	272	225	256	315	253	244	310	206
Pensions, &c. -	97	119	400	373	349	326	292	272	278	488
Hurricane loan	817	817	804	804	804	959	929	952	952	804
Miscellaneous -	1,577	1,580	1,951	1,501	1,170	1,023	1,067	675	804	900
Telegraph -	—	—	—	—	—	200	400	400	400	200
Yaws hospitals	—	—	—	—	—	775	2,058	1,885	1,643	1,882

Public Debt.

The hurricane loan was finally paid off this year.

The waterworks loan, 5,900*l.* still exists, and against its liquidation 630*l.* have been lodged with the Crown Agents, as a nucleus for a sinking fund.

The Yaws loan for 1,000*l.* was payable at the end of December, but by Act No. 17 of 1880 the duration was extended for five years.

Act No. 23 of 1880 created a loan of 5,600*l.* for the embankment of the Roseau River; the repayment of certain costs in a case where the Assembly imprisoned a member for improper conduct during the sitting of the House; for extending the waterworks in Roseau; in providing the village of Point Michael with water; and in aiding the revenue of 1880; but the Act did not come into force this year.

IMPORTS.

Year.	Imported from			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	United States.	Foreign West Indies.
	£	£	£	£
1871 - -	23,357	33,136	600	4,888
1872 -	22,257	39,976	—	6,651
1873 - -	18,663	37,307	—	6,582
1874 - -	16,926	33,211	—	6,577
1875 - -	17,245	37,217	—	7,848
1876 - -	17,240	36,175	44	7,459
1877 - -	12,433	37,395	1,028	8,066
1878 - -	22,953	31,340	2,180	9,267
1879 - -	19,755	30,220	5,047	9,481
1880 - -	26,231	26,246	10,670	6,794

EXPORTS.

Year.	Exported to			
	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	United States.	Foreign West Indies.
	£	£	£	£
1871 - -	49,940	2,424	1,463	1,131
1872 - -	56,606	3,945	259	1,034
1873 - -	54,290	4,001	136	3,591
1874 - -	60,004	5,460	—	2,256
1875 - -	58,561	5,946	2,978	4,136
1876 - -	66,127	6,233	—	4,668
1877 - -	62,663	6,778	3,024	5,235
1878 - -	72,008	4,762	138	7,796
1879 - -	60,579	5,001	2,010	6,058
1880 - -	50,572	2,323	7,647	4,127

DOMINICA.

E.—PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED during the past 10 Years.

Year.	Sugar.		Molasses.		Rum.		Coffee.	
	Cwts.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
1871	66,219	46,356	94,015	1,921	40,615	2,545	15,734	379
1872	61,418	51,558	105,282	3,476	24,630	1,543	12,466	337
1873	69,300	51,927	95,613	2,081	16,282	1,140	13,319	403
1874	65,903	54,727	70,849	2,312	32,498	2,280	12,046	395
1875	74,446	56,105	88,140	4,797	17,041	1,443	10,990	328
1876	61,734	61,474	98,449	5,421	18,912	1,512	28,240	1,015
1877	57,751	60,729	78,679	3,029	7,660	624	35,382	1,109
1878	66,403	59,733	117,946	3,753	10,876	704	18,216	562
1879	69,213	54,250	74,520	1,941	3,592	291	10,877	355
1880	64,442	45,983	101,015	2,523	8,643	650	475	10

Year.	Cocoa.		Farine Manioc.		Lime Juice.	
	Pounds.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
		£		£		£
1871 -	203,433	2,319	3	1	3,593	170
1872 -	204,773	2,546	246	63	5,932	691
1873 -	186,688	2,216	741	180	7,317	738
1874 -	189,782	2,164	147½	34	12,462	1,601
1875 -	200,113	2,661	870	131	8,400	1,824
1876 -	336,151	4,223	629	120	4,859	1,834
1877 -	367,146	7,430	873	123	6,201	1,594
1878 -	342,945	12,572	2,242	324	10,981	2,268
1879 -	411,704	11,489	1,206	211	18,416	3,155
1880 -	429,731	17,085	760	100	17,031	5,125

Year.	Tamarinds.		Logwood.		Firewood.	
	Packages.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Cords.	Value.
		£		£		£
1871 -	7	10	19	23	670	373
1872 -	131	55	20	33	853	453
1873 -	260	173	8	14	1,139	594
1874 -	251	252	105	165	1,474	743
1875 -	235	188	153	250	1,520	794
1876 -	214	148	82	80	1,442	732
1877 -	223	220	29	72	1,267	651
1878 -	238	297	18¼	33	1,434	645
1879 -	445	484	21¼	54	1,071½	554
1880 -	531	488	23	37	919	461

SHIPPING.

Year.	Entered.			Cleared.		
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1871 -	311	12,748	1,436	319	12,491	1,472
1872 -	479	9,581	1,625	492	9,151	1,643
1873 -	419	9,242	1,582	419	9,459	1,612
1874 -	361	9,549	1,407	357	9,626	1,421
1875 -	529	12,657	2,009	503	12,091	1,923
1876 -	435	13,250	1,957	428	13,201	1,958
1877 -	476	12,755	1,980	469	13,060	1,988
1878 -	471	13,278	1,879	442	12,697	1,875
1879 -	478	13,578	2,007	471	13,384	2,026
1880 -	359	11,223	1,653	356	11,041	1,618

Legislation.

Legislation was important, and effected the following subjects:

Constitution.

No. 8 amends the existing Law by limiting the initiation of money votes to the Governor.

Commerce.

No. 3 extends the privilege of the coasting trade around the Island. No. 19 appropriates certain funds to the improvement of the town of Portsmouth. (This Act was disallowed, being faulty in principle.)

Finance.

No. 7 makes a small prospective reduction in the civil establishments.

No. 9 reduces the export duty upon bay oil and other alcohols flavoured with the essential oil of fruits.

No. 10 appropriates certain sums for public service, 1880.

No. 11 appropriates further sums for 1879.

No. 17 continues the yaws tax, and extends the yaws loan for a period of five years.

No. 20 continues the Stamp Act for five years.

No. 21 appropriates sums for the service, 1881.

No. 22 makes further appropriation for 1880.

No. 23 sanctions a loan of 5,600*l.* for erecting an embankment to a portion of the Roseau River, for re-imbursing the defendants in a case of privilege when the Assembly imprisoned a member some years since; for extending and erecting waterworks in the town of Roseau and the village of Pointe Michelle; and for aiding the revenue of 1880.

General.

No. 18 authorising the taking of a census in 1881.

DOMINICA.

Legal.

No. 25 authorises the revision, compilation, and publication of the Local Acts.

Municipal.

Nos. 1 and 24 regulate the repairs of the roads.

No. 12 regulates the licensing, &c. of porters and watermen.

No. 13 controls the selling, &c. of dynamite.

No. 14 sanctions the sale of certain premises given for the benefit of the Infirmary with a view to the enlargement of the institution.

No. 15 amends the Pound Act.

No. 16 consolidates the Board of Management of the Poor into one body.

Personal.

No. 2 authorises the General Legislation to make laws relating to aliens, friendly societies, and commissions of inquiry.

No. 4 prevents the unauthorised exportation of immigrants.

Sanitary.

No. 5 provides medical aid for the labouring population.

No. 6 amends the Board of Health Act.

Education.

The Inspector-General reports "great improvement," but still a low standard. "Daily average attendance has increased from 600 in 1875 to 1,227 in 1880."

Savings Bank.

The savings bank is gradually being appreciated, the deposits now amount to 579*l.* 11*s.* 9½*d.* If arrangements could be made for penny deposits throughout the country, great benefit would be derived. This might be accomplished through the agency of the magistrates, who I am sure would aid the Government in encouraging habits of thrift and industry.

Inland and Parcel Post.

The inland and parcel post continues to do good work, 4,348 letters, 959 newspapers, 539 parcels, and money amounting to 999*l.* 12*s.* 3½*d.* were despatched and received. In addition to the foregoing work, the Leeward post boat was made available for the conveyance of policemen, prisoners, and passengers. This service could be far more efficiently performed if steam communication could be placed between Roseau and Portsmouth.

Sanitary.

I regret that the Medical Report for the Yaws Hospital has not yet been received from the medical officer. The admissions into the hospital for the year were 354 against 307 in 1879; this number added to those in hospital at the beginning of the year

(123) makes a total of 477 cases under treatment. There were 15 deaths. The admission into the Poor House and Infirmary were in excess of 1879. The health of the Island has been good Quarantine has been observed against our neighbours in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

General.

The unusual dry weather at the close of the year materially injured the cane crop, which will scarcely reach a half average. The prices of this staple at home will somewhat compensate growers for this falling off.

Cocoa continues to receive greater attention both in extended cultivation and care in shipping.

The increased export is remarkable :—

1871 - -	203,433	1876 - -	346,151
1872 - -	204,737	1877 - -	367,146
1873 - -	186,688	1878 - -	342,945
1874 - -	175,861	1879 - -	411,704
1875 - -	185,587	1880 - -	429,771

The quantity kept back in the hope of improved prices and for shipment in 1881 was considerable.

Coffee.—The quantity exported was only 475 pounds. It is gratifying to find that the Liberian coffee is being successfully and extensively cultivated, its leaves appear quite impervious to the attack of the blight. No export except for seed has I believe yet taken place, but the yield from the yearly planted trees is said to be excellent.

Lime Juice is still paying remunerating rates, and the culture is being extended ; it may now be considered one of the staple products. The export has increased very much.

	Gallons raw.	Concentrated.
1876 - -	4,859	6,667
1877 - -	1,074	6,067
1878 - -	2,037	8,944
1879 - -	2,388	16,028
1880 - -	1,054	16,977

Fruit.—The facilities afforded by the line of steamers to New York has developed the trade to a considerable extent, and paying rates have been obtained ; but it is to be regretted that more punctuality is not observed by the carriers, fruit being kept for days awaiting the steamer's arrival, and more care in packing by the shippers ; the name of a place of shipment is often seriously affected by injudicious shippers. The tidy little lathed box with its fruit carefully wrapped in paper and gently placed side by side, but ill compares with a large fish cask, whose sides are impregnated with fish oil, in which fruit is literally tumbled. The result must be profit and loss respectively, while the Dominica fruit gets a bad name.

DOMINICA.

It is certainly matter of suprise that with cheap land, excellent soil adapted to staple products that cannot fail to be remunerating, copious rainfall, healthy climate, frequent steam communication to England (three times a month) and the United States (twice a month), with a docile peasantry, and with all a lovely scenery, capitalists do not invest in the virgin land of Dominica.

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
President.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 16.

GOVERNOR Sir R. M. LAFFAN, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Mount Langton,
Bermuda, July 20, 1881.

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Blue Book of Bermuda for the year 1880, and to accompany it with the following observations.

2. Owing to the want of sufficient clerical assistance in the Colonial Secretary's office the completion of this Blue Book has been somewhat delayed, and as the Commissioners appointed to take the decennial census of the Colony for the year 1881 have been able to arrive very quickly at the termination of their inquiries, I am, owing to this delay, able to make use of some of the information afforded by the decennial census of the present year in reviewing the progress made by the Colony during the year 1880.

3. The Bermudas or Somers Islands form a group of several hundred small Islands and rocks gathered together into a cluster in the Western Atlantic in latitude 32° 15′ north and longitude 64° 51′ west. The nearest point of the Continent of America is Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, which is distant about 580 miles to the westward. The group occupies a very central position in the Western Atlantic, being distant about 730 miles from Halifax in Nova Scotia, 677 from New York, 772 from Charlestown, 777 from the Bahamas, and about 800 from the nearest of the other West Indian Islands. This central position, and the great convenience and security of its harbours, give exceptional importance to the group as a naval and military station.

4. The group of Islands and the long lines of sunken reefs of Bermuda form together an oblong oval ring of irregular outline, somewhat resembling the atols of the coral formation of the Pacific. The oval measures about 22 miles in length from north-east to south-west, and about 10 miles in width from north-west to south-east. The encircling ring is altogether about 50 miles in circumference, and it is seldom more than about a mile

in width. That width, however, of solid land or of dangerous coral reef suffices to present everywhere an impenetrable barrier to vessels seeking to enter the enclosed waters, save at a few points where some long, narrow, and tortuous channels communicate between the outer ocean and the inland sea. The inland sea, also, is itself profusely interspersed with small Islands and with reefs and ledges and detached rocks of submerged coral, which renders the internal navigation intricate and dangerous to any but experienced pilots.

5. Of the encircling ring a length of about 14 miles along the southern circumference is formed of detached Islands almost touching one another and forming a continuous chain. The remaining 36 miles, comprising the eastern and northern and western sides of the oval, consist of long lines of sunken coral reefs, through which a few narrow and intricate channels, called in Bermuda "cuts," alone afford a hazardous passage for vessels of comparatively light tonnage. The main channel through which access is gained from the outer to the inner waters is the long and winding passage called "The Narrows," which sweeps round the north-eastern shore of the Island of St. George at a distance of about half a mile. This is now the only channel used by men-of-war or by merchant vessels, and indeed it is the only one that is quite safe for ships of any considerable size, it is about two miles in length, and, being narrow and tortuous, vesssels are compelled to move through it slowly and with great caution, and as it is commanded throughout its entire length by numerous very heavy casemated batteries, and further protected by torpedoes and sub-marine mines, it would be extremely difficult for even the most powerful fleet to force its way through it if opposed by an efficient garrison.

6. The dockyard and the naval storehouses and hospitals, and other naval establishments occupy the whole of a detached Island, called Inland Island, situated in a very central position in the midst of the enclosed sea and distant everywhere at least five miles from the encircling islands and reefs, so that hostile cruisers can nowhere get within less than five miles of the dockyard, without having previously made their way through the intricate and dangerous channels which traverse the outer reefs; and even if a cruiser should have succeeded in surmounting the perils of this intricate navigation, it would still find it extremely difficult to draw near to the dockyard as the inner waters themselves are thickly studded with irregular banks and groups and clusters of sunken coral, which leave only a few narrow channels available for navigation by ships of any considerable size: none but the most experienced pilots can guide large vessels with safety through these tortuous passages, and even the most skilful pilots can only do so in fine weather. The safety of the dockyard of Bermuda is admirably secured by nature and by art.

7. The head-quarters of the military garrison have been established on an elevated central plateau, which from the wide views it commands over sea and land has been called "Prospect

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Camp." This plateau is situated near the centre of the main Island, about half a mile to the northward of the town of Hamilton, and a large proportion of the infantry of the garrison is there quartered in excellent cantonments, supported by three admirably constructed modern forts mounting very heavy ordnance. The situation is a peculiarly healthy one and the troops occupying the camp enjoy excellent health. The remainder of the infantry form the garrisons of Inland Island and of St. George's and of the numerous forts which command the channel called "the Narrows." A strong force of artillery is maintained at Inland Island and at St. George's to man the heavy guns which protect the dockyard and the numerous forts which defend the approaches to the inner waters and to the town and harbour of St. George.

8. The climate of Bermuda has long been celebrated for its mildness and salubrity. The thermometer generally ranges from 45° to 55° during the winter months and it is only on very rare occasions that it goes down to 40°. There is never anything approaching to frost, and flowers and fruit and vegetables are more abundant in the winter and the spring than in the summer. The summers on the other hand are never characterized by any extreme heat, the thermometer seldom rises higher than 85° and the heat is generally tempered by a sea breeze, but the prevailing breezes during the summer months blow almost invariably from the south-west and arrive at Bermuda heavily charged with the vapour of the gulf stream, and in consequence of this the summer atmosphere is almost always extremely damp and heavy, and most people find it enervating and depressing. Nevertheless, the Islands enjoy a singular immunity from malarial fevers and from the numerous and dangerous contagious diseases which so frequently afflict the West Indian Islands. Yellow fever has never been known to originate in the Colony; whenever it has prevailed it has always been introduced from abroad. The last visitation of that dreadful scourge occurred in the year 1864 when it was brought to the Colony by some blockade running ships; since then it has not appeared in the Islands, and it is to be hoped that by maintaining a good and efficient system of quarantine its re-introduction may be prevented.

9. The total area of the Islands amounts to 10,970 acres, of which 2,230 acres are under cultivation, 8,505 consist of woods or of wide open spaces of scanty natural pasture interspersed with stunted cedar bush and wild sage bush, and 235 are covered with salt water marshes.

10. The woods of Bermuda were formerly very valuable, the timber consists almost entirely of cedar wood of a very compact close grained kind extremely rich in a peculiar species of rosin, which emits a very agreeable odour, and renders the timber almost impervious to water. Previous to the introduction of steamers and of iron ships, this cedar wood was greatly prized for ship building, and the cedar-built ships of Bermuda were preferred to all other wooden vessels. Bermuda then maintained a sailing fleet of nearly 150 small brigs and schooners, with which

the inhabitants carried on a prosperous carrying trade between the ports of Newfoundland and of Canada, and those of the United States of America, and of the West Indian Islands, and frequently they extended their voyages to England, to Portugal, and to Italy, and once a year several of them sailed down to Madeira and Ascension, where they met the homeward bound fleet of the East India Company, and obtained supplies of Chinese and of Indian products. The inhabitants then entirely neglected agriculture, and used their land only for purposes of ornamental gardening; they directed their whole attention to commerce and to maritime pursuits.

11. Owing, however, to the general introduction of steamers and of iron shipping, there has long ceased to be any demand for cedar-built ships, the sailing fleet of Bermuda has dwindled down from 150 to four or five small vessels, for which it is difficult now to find continuous employment, and the cedar wood being no longer required for shipbuilding, and being used merely for purposes of house carpentry and furniture, has fallen very much in value. Bermuda also is now no longer able to furnish the large and fine cedar wood it formerly supplied. The fine trees naturally grew and flourished in the valleys and depressions where the vegetable soils had accumulated to a considerable depth, and afforded them abundant nourishment, and as all those valleys and depressions have now been industriously cleared of wood, and devoted to the cultivation of agricultural produce, the cedar wood at present supplied is that which has been grown on the poorer soils of the hills and slopes, where the timber, though still of very fine quality no longer attains to any considerable size.

12. The natural pastures, which more or less interspersed with stunted cedar wood and sage bush occupy a considerable portion of the whole surface, are of the very poorest description. The thin sparse grass affords so little nutriment that all animals which it is desired to maintain in anything like good condition must be fed upon imported food. Large supplies of oats and hay are imported for this purpose from the United States of America and from Canada, and cows and oxen and sheep are also largely fed with imported Indian corn meal. Sheep do not thrive in Bermuda. In the absence of suitable pasture the few that are imported are kept for a short time in covered buildings and fed upon hay and corn meal, but they do not improve, and as their food is very expensive, the butchers who alone import them naturally seek to keep them as short a time as possible. Oxen do much better. Those introduced from America are generally somewhat lean and it is found that when stall fed with a plentiful supply of hay and Indian corn meal they improve rapidly in condition, and indeed sometimes when kept too long they grow so fat that the troops have been known to object to the beef on that account. Not more than from 30 to 40 oxen are ever kept in the Colony at any one time. The inhabitants, however, keep a number of cows, from 1,600 to 1,700, and milk is abundant and of good quality, the cows are generally taken out every morning and tethered in some

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13. The scantiness of the pasture in Bermuda is explained by the natural formation of the country. The Islands are nothing more than a collection of sand hills, the fine sands of which have been thrown up by the sea and blown by the winds into an interminable succession of low rounded hills and long saddle-shaped ridges. The fine sands, however, unlike the sands of Europe, which generally consist of silica or powdered flint, are made up almost entirely of minute fragments of broken sea shells and powdered coral, composed for the most part of lime, and these having been gradually decomposed by the combined action of the rains and the winds and the sunshine have become conglomerated into a soft friable white limestone, in appearance somewhat resembling a coarse grained chalk. The rounded hills and ridges of Bermuda, formed almost entirely of this white limestone, became in course of time covered over with a thin coating of vegetable mould, which nourishes the present poor and scanty herbage. The Bermudian cedar, however, a peculiarly hardy species of juniper, seems to have found in this soil a very congenial habitat, as in one form or another, sometimes as a stately tree, sometimes as a stunted shrub, it grows up everywhere, and at the time of the first settlement of the Colony it formed an almost unbroken forest over the whole of the Islands.

14. In course of time the vegetable mould arising from the annual shedding of the leaves of the cedar trees and from other decayed vegetation was washed down from the hills and slopes and gradually accumulated in every valley and hollow and depression, where mixing with the sands and gravels and other scourings of the hills it has formed an agricultural soil of moderate depth, which is found to possess considerable fertility.

15. As an instance of the rapidity with which vegetable soil may thus be accumulated, I may relate that being desirous once of obtaining a supply of earth for improving the poor sandy soil of the garden at Mount Langton, I obtained permission to take some from a small deep valley in the neighbourhood. On digging in this spot the undisturbed vegetable mould was found to be from 4 to 5 feet in depth, and cedar trees of about 14 inches in diameter and evidently of considerable age were growing close together on the surface. Yet on getting down to the rock below the workmen came in one place upon the remains of a fire that had evidently been lit by men. The surface of the white rock over a circle of about 6 feet in diameter was very much burnt and blackened, and numerous pieces of unconsumed charcoal were lying about. Every circumstance connected with the discovery pointed to the conclusion that the fire had been one lit and used by men. Yet the remains had become covered over by from 4 to 5 feet of vegetable mould, and

on the new soil thus formed trees of considerable size and age had since grown up. If we assume that this fire had been lit by some of the first settlers, who were wrecked on the then desert Islands with Sir George Somers in 1609, we may conclude that 5 feet of vegetable mould may be accumulated and trees of large size may subsequently grow up on the soil so created in an interval of 272 years.

16. From the foregoing description it will be evident that the agricultural enterprise of Bermuda must necessarily be restricted to the cultivation of a very small proportion of the surface of the soil. It it doubtful whether the extent of cultivated land can be profitably increased beyond its present limits, 2,230 acres. This small extent of agricultural ground has, however, been turned to the best account by the inhabitants, who, finding themselves debarred from their favourite pursuit of maritime commerce, have turned all their attention and devoted all their energies to improving the productions of their soil. They have found by experience that the most profitable use to which they can turn their ground is to devote it to the growth of early spring produce, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, and beetroot, which they ship to New York and other maritime towns of America as early as possible in the year. Having no frost to dread they are able to sow and plant all through the winter season, and thus they have every year large supplies of spring produce ready for shipment to America two or three months before any American produce of a similar kind can be brought to market. The Bermudian supplies have thus a monopoly of the American markets for two or three months of every year, and the high prices they then command suffice amply to repay the cost of their production and transport.

17. During the year 1880 the Colony exported 28,000 barrels of potatoes, 186,000 boxes of onions, and 67,000 boxes of tomatoes, with other smaller supplies, and the value of this produce at Hamilton, the port of shipment, may be estimated at about 80,000*l.* This, in most countries, would be considered a very handsome return from 2,230 acres of land, but in addition to this spring produce the inhabitants of Bermuda obtain from their ground during the summer and autumn seasons considerable quantities of potatoes and sweet potatoes, Indian corn, pumpkins, bananas and melons, and other vegetables and fruit which, though generally useless for purposes of export, are very valuable as articles for home consumption.

18. The prices realised in America by the agricultural produce exported from the Colony during the year 1880 have shown a slight improvement upon those realised during the years 1879 and 1878, and this affords additional evidence, if any were required, that the middle classes of the large American towns, who are the chief consumers of Bermudian produce, have now almost entirely recovered from the great commercial crisis which occurred in America in 1877.

19. The total value of the exports from the Colony during the year 1880 amounted to 84,037*l.* 2*s.* Those exports were almost

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entirely made up of agricultural produce. The value of the imports amounted to 248,863*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* This enormous disproportion between the value of the exports and that of the imports may be ascribed to the circumstance that nearly every article required for the food or for the clothing of the entire civil population, and of the garrison, and of the fleet, must be imported from abroad, and that the local merchants whose business it is to introduce these supplies, being unable to pay for their extensive importations by means of return exports, are obliged to remit Treasury bills on England, which they purchase from the Commissariat, to balance their accounts with their foreign correspondents.

20. The inhabitants of Bermuda have turned to the best account the limited extent of their soil, and aided by the favourable circumstances of their climate, they have succeeded in creating an export trade in early spring produce as great as it seems possible to develop from such a small extent of ground, but their industry and the favouring circumstances of their climate would have been insufficient to have maintained the prosperity of the Colony at its present level, had it not been for the material help afforded by the very large expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government for the maintenance of the garrison and of the fleet. This expenditure may be set down at about 220,000*l.* a year, or nearly three times the value of the whole agricultural produce of the Islands, and upwards of seven times the whole annual revenue of the Colony. This large expenditure creates a constant demand for labour, and keeps wages of every kind at a very high level, and wherever the labouring classes can command full employment and remunerative wages, the community will generally be prosperous and the revenue will flourish.

21. The revenue of Bermuda collected during the year 1880 amounted to 29,737*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, showing an increase of 1,123*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, over the revenue collected during the year 1879. The principal increase took place in the receipts from the ad valorem duty of five per cent. paid on importations of food and of general merchandise, and an increased importation of these articles may generally be accepted as evidence of an improvement in the general condition of the people. It is remarkable that at the same time there was a considerable falling off in the duties levied on rum and other ardent spirits; but it has been frequently noticed that when people are well clothed and well fed, they do not feel the same temptation to indulge in the consumption of intoxicating liquors.

22. Of the 29,737*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* raised as revenue during the year 1880, it appears from returns furnished by the navy and by the regiments and corps in garrison, that a sum of at least 5,000*l.* was paid by the officers and men of Her Majesty's army and navy as import duties on the wines and spirits and malt liquors consumed in the naval and military messes and on the various articles of general consumption supplied to the officers and men by the naval and military canteens. The revenue raised from the

civil population therefore amounted only to 24,737*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, which gives an average rate of taxation of only 1*l.* 14*s.* per annum per head, a rate of general taxation which will probably be found to be as light as prevails in any other country in the world. The local taxation assessed and administered by the parish authorities is almost nominal, the parish rates do not amount on the average to more than 10*d.* per head per annum.

23. It will be observed that the revenue of Bermuda is almost entirely raised from import duties on wines and spirituous and malt liquors, and on articles of clothing and of food. There is no land tax, no property or income tax, no succession or probate duty, no excise, there are no stamps or assessed taxes. The owners of property in Bermuda contribute hardly anything as such to the public exchequer, but on the contrary derive a certain amount of protection to the produce of their land from the import duties imposed upon all similar produce imported from abroad. The import duties upon wine and upon malt liquors are extremely high, 20 per cent. ad valorem upon all wines, and about the same upon malt liquors. These high duties are very objectionable as having the effect of encouraging the consumption of the less healthy spirituous liquors. They are open also to the grave objection that they are chiefly paid by the officers and men of the garrison and of the fleet, who are quartered in the Colony for its defence, and who in almost every other British Colony are exempted from the payment of such import duties. The general import duty of five per cent. on the other hand levied upon all articles of food and clothing and general merchandise, which is paid alike by military and civilian, is scarcely felt by the people who pay it, and its remission would probably have scarcely any effect in lowering the prices which the tradesmen charge to their customers.

24. The expenditure of the Colony for the past year, including the repayment of 1,000*l.* of the public debt, amounted to 27,734*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, being 2,003*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* less than the realized revenue. There is shown in the Blue Book as still unpaid another sum of 1,000*l.*, raised on debentures in the year 1877 to pay off demands of savings banks depositors, but while the Blue Book was being bound up that other sum of 1,000*l.*, comprising the last remaining savings banks debentures issued by the Colony, had also been recalled and paid off, and the whole public debt of the Colony now consists of a sum of 4,890*l.* on which the interest paid averages about 4½ per cent., and of a sum of 4,594*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* due to the saving's banks depositors on which the interest paid is 2½ per cent. These sums amount together to 9,484*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, being at the rate of 13*s.* 1½*d.* per head for the whole civil population.

25. The civil population of Bermuda, as determined by the decennial census just completed, numbers 14,401, of which the whites number 5,745 and the coloured people 8,656. It is remarkable that during the decennial period which elapsed between the years 1861 and 1871 the coloured population increased in number 14 per cent., whereas during the subsequent 10 years

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from 1871 to 1881 they only increased 10 per cent., this diminished rate of increase may be attributed in some measure to the difficulty which the coloured people experience in acquiring property. It is the desire of most coloured men in Bermuda on marrying to possess a cottage with a small plot of ground on which they may employ their spare time in raising vegetables for their own use and for the market, but the coloured people in Bermuda find it very difficult to gratify this ambition. Nearly the whole of the land of the Colony is in the hands of white families, and the law and the practice of the Colony resembling, in that respect, to some extent the law and the practice of the mother country, have so charged the land with family settlements and with entails and mortgages that it is generally extremely difficult for proprietors to sell any portion of their estates; it is very seldom that any quantities of even the poorest land are offered for sale, and when they are so offered they generally realize a very high price. It is but rarely, therefore, that coloured men are able to purchase the small plots of ground on which they like to settle, and they find it almost equally difficult to hire land, for many of the white proprietors object to letting land to coloured tenants on the ground that they find from experience that coloured people are too often wanting in those habits of steady industry and forethought and punctuality without which they cannot become profitable tenants, and that they seldom therefore cultivate the ground to the best advantage, and are consequently almost invariably in arrear with their rents.

26. Owing to the difficulty in acquiring landed property and owing to the reluctance of many white proprietors to accept them as tenants, it is somewhat difficult for coloured people in Bermuda to find occupation in connexion with the soil otherwise than as day labourers, and as day labourers their services are not considered so valuable as those of white men. The climate of Bermuda does not prevent white people from working in the fields all the year round, and the steady, diligent, constant labour of the white man is preferred in the Colony to the less reliable exertions of his coloured rivals. The coloured people, on the other hand, almost monopolise a number of profitable occupations unconnected with the cultivation of the soil; they make fair coachmen and grooms and domestic servants; they are very skilful fishermen, and almost all the pilots belong to the coloured race. Great numbers of them also find employment in the dockyard and in the towns of Hamilton and St. George's, where they perform an immense amount of useful work connected with trade and commerce and with shipping.

27. During the decennial period from 1861 to 1871 the white population increased in numbers only 2 per cent., whereas during the subsequent 10 years from 1871 to 1881 they increased 12 per cent. I attribute the latter increase, however, in a great measure, to the introduction of white families brought over in great numbers from Portugal and from Sweden at the expense of

the Colony, with a view to furnishing a supply of agricultural labourers and domestic servants.

28. Bermuda may be said to occupy a position on the neutral line which separates the countries where white labour may be profitably employed in agriculture from those where all work in the fields must be performed by coloured races. In Bermuda both races can be employed, and it would seem as if the superior energy and steadier industry of the white man were prevailing in the inevitable competition over the efforts of his coloured rival. For some years after the emancipation of the slaves it seemed as if the coloured race would in course of time monopolise the labour market and supersede the whites in the cultivation of the ground, but of late years the tendency has been quite the other way, and the white race seems now destined not only to retain the proprietorship of the ground, but to furnish also the principal part of the labour required for its improvement and cultivation.

29. Among the white population the females exceed the males in number by about 10 per cent., and among the coloured people they outnumber them by about 20 per cent. The disproportion among the whites may be ascribed to a great extent to the growing tendency among the more enterprising young men, to leave the Colony, and seek in other countries a wider and more profitable field for their exertions than can be found in their narrow island home. Among the coloured races the disproportion may be ascribed partly to the hazardous nature of the callings adopted by many of the men as fishermen and pilots, and partly to the uncertain desultory nature of the pursuits followed by many others who seem to dislike applying themselves to any regular and continuous work, and to prefer trusting to uncertain chance employments, which may permit them to alternate irregular periods of industry and exertion with frequent intervals of pleasure and relaxation; these men cannot always find work ready for them when they wish to resume it, and they are exposed therefore occasionally to serious distress and privation.

30. The education of the poorer classes in Bermuda had fallen to a very low ebb a few years since. In 1878 the number of children on the books of the schools under the control of the School Board had fallen to 649, and the average daily attendance at all those schools did not exceed 400. Strenuous efforts were then however made to promote the cause of public education; application was made to the Legislature for fresh legislation, and for a largely increased educational grant, and in 1879 the Legislature passed a most useful Education Act, doubling the amount of the educational grants voted up to that time, and introducing under the form of a school rate a mild kind of compulsion which judiciously worked has been found a most successful incentive to lead parents to send their children to school. A school rate of 6*s.* per quarter was imposed upon all parents in respect of every child between six and thirteen years of age, but it was enacted that all parents should be exempted from the payment of the rate in respect of all children of whom

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they could prove to the satisfaction of the local School Boards that they had been during the quarter in regular attendance at some recognised school, or that they had been receiving private tuition of a character that was approved by the Government Inspector of Schools or by the School Board.

31. The school rates are collected by the overseers of the poor of the different parishes and are by them paid over to the parish School Boards, which are the parish vestries, but the amount collected is very small, for parents finding that it cost them as much to keep their children away from school and pay the school rate as it did to send them to school and pay the schoolmaster's fees, naturally preferred the latter alternative, and thus the attendance at the schools under the supervision of the School Board has been nearly doubled within two years. Very little is collected from the rate, but it has answered its intended purpose in drawing the children to the schools.

32. The system of teaching in the schools has also been improved. The larger grants voted yearly for educational purposes have enabled the School Board to grant yearly payments in aid of the salaries of all the schoolmasters on their list, and to increase the allowances given to reward the punctual attendance and the proficiency of pupils, and thus the Board has been able to secure the services of some better masters and to induce many of the masters on the old list to adopt a better system of teaching. In their efforts to promote the cause of public education the School Board has been greatly aided by the talents and experience and zeal of the Government School Inspector, Mr. Simpson, who was selected by the Secretary of State, and sent out from England to assist the Colonial Government in its attempt to improve the education of the poorer classes.

33. The Education Act of 1879 has not as yet had time to bear its full fruit, but already a marked improvement may be observed. The parish vestries who were somewhat unwilling at first to put the Act in force, have now fully recognized the benefits to be derived from it, and meetings are being held, and funds are being collected for the purpose of opening new schools in many places in connexion with the School Board. The Act has proved especially beneficial in compelling the unfortunate class called poor whites to extend the blessings of education to their children, instead of allowing them to grow up in ignorance and barbarism.

34. There are very few really poor people in Bermuda. Labour is so much in request and so highly remunerated that no one who is able and willing to follow any useful occupation need remain long unemployed. The authorities of the dockyard have been advertising for weeks past that 4*s*. a day, with lodging and the use of a kitchen and firing, would be paid to any ordinary labourer willing to work at scraping off the old paint and rust from the great floating dock prior to that huge fabric being repainted. These ordinary labourers might, I am imformed, easily earn 6*s*. a day by working a moderate amount of extra

time ; yet the authorities of the dockyard have been unable to procure the services of a sufficient number of men in the Colony for this work, and have been compelled to import labourers from the West Indies. The class called poor whites are by no means paupers, they have generally good houses to shelter them, and a sufficiency of clothing, and of food. Their houses are, however, as a rule, destitute of comfort, and there is an absence of the neatness and even elegance which may sometimes be seen attaching to the labourer's cottages in England. The poor whites are chiefly remarkable for their want of enterprise and of ambition. They have grown up generally in apathy and ignorance, and till quite recently they were bringing up their children to follow in the same career. It is to be hoped that the enforcement of the new Education Act will prevent such a melancholy result.

35. Upon the whole, the year 1880 may be said to have been a prosperous one for Bermuda. The crops were abundant and of good quality, and they realized very fair prices in the markets of the United States. The health of the community was excellent, and there was an almost total absence of any dangerous fever or infectious disease. Trade flourished, and the revenue exceeded the expenditure, and left a considerable surplus available for the reduction of the Colonial debt. I trust that this prosperous condition of things may be long continued. The leading spirits of the community have taken the most effectual measure to perpetuate it in the strong effort they have made, and are still making, to promote the education and improve the condition of the poorer classes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. M. LAFFAN, Major-General,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 17.

Administrator Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. H. MITCHELL, R.M., C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Maritzburg, Natal,
July 30, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Blue Book for 1880, and to report thereon as follows:

Revenue and Expenditure.

The increase in the revenue of 1880 over that of 1879 of 109,237*l.* is due, in a great measure, to the very large imports which were made during the former year, partly to replace the exhausted stocks of Transvaal merchants unreplenished during 1879 by reason of the transport rates of that year being abnormally raised by the Zulu war, partly by the impetus imparted to the agricultural and commercial operations of the Colony itself on the termination of that war, by the investment of the large earnings made during its operations, and partly to the natural development of the Colony. All these causes led to an increase of customs duties on imports of 22,226*l.* The increase in port, harbour, and tug dues, was from the operations of the same causes, 4,131*l.* The increases in transfer dues of 4,067*l.* and in stamps of 2,032*l.* were also due in a great measure to the fact that during 1880 large sums of money were seeking investment. The fines and fees of court increased during 1880 by 5,280*l.*, and a considerable sum was realised by the sale to members of local rifle associations of arms and ammunition which could be spared from the very large stock left in the hands of the Government after the war. The extension and development of the railway also caused an increase of revenue amounting to 34,045*l.*

The expenditure was 2,553*l.* over that of 1879 and was 25,368*l.* less than was voted in the ordinary and supplementary Supply Bills for 1880, but 24,121*l.* more than the total amount voted in the ordinary Supply Bill. Savings were effected under the heads of Public Works (10,759*l.*), Colonial Defence (7,522*l.*), and, in smaller amounts, under several other heads of service, while the war expenditure of the Colony, which in 1879 was 69,500*l.*, fell in 1880 to 31,814*l.*, which latter sum covered a refund to the Imperial Government of an amount of 19,064*l.* (advanced under a misconception in 1879), and included gratuities

to relatives of Natal volunteers who had lost their lives during the war (5,734*l.*), compensation for losses of kit &c. by volunteers and Natal Mounted Police (3,675*l.*), for loss of horses (1,137*l.*), and a bonus given to volunteers for wear and tear of saddlery and kit (1,528*l.*).

The heads of service under which an increased expenditure took place were "Secretary for Native Affairs" (2,305*l.*), "Postal" (2,932*l.*), "Immigration" (3,625*l.*), "Education" (1,221*l.*), "Legislative Council" (2,616*l.*), "Other Establishments and Services" (11,796*l.*), this last including 3,397*l.* awarded by the Legislature as a gratuity to Government servants having a less salary than 400*l.* during 1879 to cover the increased cost of living caused by the war, and 2,614*l.*, being the expenditure incurred in carrying out the dog tax, "Railways" (47,244*l.*), caused by the extension of the line during 1880, and several other increases of less than 1,000*l.* each.

The extraordinary increase which has annually taken place in the revenue of Natal for the past four years, and the way in which the expenditure has kept pace with and even in three of those years outstripped the revenue, cannot fail to give rise to very serious reflection on the possibility of a sudden collapse in the Colony's income and a consequent embarrassment in its affairs.

The following table shows the annual increase:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1877 - - - -	272,473	283,823
1878 - - - -	369,384	434,632
1879 - - - -	473,478	491,884
1880 - - - -	582,715	494,437

Part of this increase, both of revenue and expenditure, is of course due to the development of the railway, its earnings and cost of up-keep being as follows:—

	Earnings.	Up-keep.
	£	£
1877 - - - -	16,656	12,356
1878 - - -	28,059	22,924
1879 - - - -	39,723	42,052
1880 - - - -	73,768	89,296

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The revenue and expenditure after deducting the railway figures are therefore as follows :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1877 - - - -	255,817	271,467
1878 - - - -	341,325	411,708
1879 - - - -	433,755	449,832
1880 - - - -	508,947	405,141

showing an average annual increase of revenue of 84,376*l.* and of expenditure of 44,558*l.* during the four years 1877–80.

There has been no increase of taxation during that period, with the exception of a license fee of 5*s.* on each dog; the law for imposing this tax was, although passed in 1875, only brought into general operation during 1880, in which year it produced a gross sum of 6,115*l.*, and after deducting 2,614*l.*, the expense of its collection, increased the revenue by 3,501*l.*

Local Revenues.

The Corporation of the borough of Pietermaritzburg appears to have had a revenue of 46,971*l.*

Works for supplying the town with water were contracted for and were partly executed by the close of the year; their cost will be, when complete, about 35,000*l.* The sanitary condition of the town was improved, and the police force augmented during 1880.

The general revenue of the borough of Durban appears to have been 20,234*l.*

The Public Improvements Fund, to which all land sales are carried, amounted to 11,795*l.* The Togt (Native Registered Labourers) Fund, amounted to 1,933*l.*; the Market account to 2,755*l.* Total 36,717*l.*

Great sanitary improvements were effected in the town during the year, and Durban may now claim to be one of the if not the cleanest town in South Africa.

The borough police have also been very considerably increased, and are a very efficient force. Considerable sums have been spent in macadamising the sandy roads of the borough, and comfortable barracks have been provided for the Indian labourers.

The Indian Immigration Trust Board had an income of 40,887*l.*, and expended 39,032*l.*, exclusive of its medical fund, which received fees amounting to 3,884*l.*, and expended 4,009*l.* 11*s.*; the balance to the credit of this latter fund on the 31st December 1879 was 3,167*l.*, and on the 31st December 1880, 3,042*l.*

Imports and Exports.

Imports and exports were both largely in excess of those of the previous year, the former reaching the high total value of 2,336,584*l.*, as compared with 2,176,356*l.* in 1879, 1,719,562*l.* in 1878, and 1,167,402*l.* in 1877.

The doubling of our imports within the short period of three years is due partly to the considerable development of the country during that period, but chiefly to the impetus given to the trade with the interior caused by the termination of the Zulu war.

The operation of the first-named cause may chiefly be traced in the increased importation of the following articles, namely:—

	1879.	1880.
	£	£
Agricultural implements	11,320	25,705
Cabinet, and upholstery ware	29,785	58,321
Galvanized iron	30,292	55,795
Rail and tramway iron (not Government)	272	7,558
Books and music	10,054	13,849
Machinery, free from duty	14,751	23,304
„ duty paid	7,714	14,095
Picks and hoes	2,132	3,868
Garden seeds	841	1,133
Stationery	23,186	30,935
Tin ware	4,763	6,770
Turnery, &c.	30,129	41,633
Wood (boards and planks)	16,441	39,036
„ (houses and frames)	3,717	9,194

The increase in the "up country" trade combined with the progress of Natal may be seen in the importation of the following, namely:—

	1879.	1880.
	£	£
Beads (value)	2,995	9,658
Haberdashery and millinery	186,025	200,195
Hardware and cutlery	34,265	47,835
Ironmongery	63,481	85,289
Leather manufactures	99,038	113,510
Saddlery	52,489	57,059
Woollen manufactures	19,972	23,310
Blankets and railway rugs	61,902	106,461
Wooden ware	5,620	7,488
Coffee	26,740	40,229

For the following increases the above-named causes have also been partially effective, but the main reason is, no doubt, to be

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found in the large profits made during the war having induced indulgence in habits of luxury:—

	1879.	1880.
	£	£
Wine (in bottles)	28,329	32,486
„ (in wood)	12,456	13,085
Brandy	45,546	65,849
Gin	13,139	24,995
Rum	949	1,393
Sweetened spirits	5,677	9,820
Whiskey	7,137	10,627
Cigars	8,807	10,015
Perfumery	3,902	5,623
Confectionery	19,649	24,610

The change from a state of war to one of peace is indicated by the following decreases:—

	1879.	1880.
	£	£
Guns (value)	29,309	4,560
Gunpowder	3,418	1,282
Cartridges	10,285	1,730
Percussion caps	1,445	405
Pistols	2,345	521
Flour, meal, &c.	85,176	54,685
Fodder	1,566	496
Maize	17,302	956
Oats	11,564	3,563
Peas and beans	2,332	91
Sail cloth and canvas	24203	14,082
Oilman's stores	53,547	38,472
Preserved meats, &c.	68,218	35,949
Rice	58,051	22,885
Rope and cordage	7,188	5,787

Exports.

The exports increased from a total value in 1879 of 583,711*l.*, of which 539,641*l.* were said to be the produce of the Colony, to a total in 1880 of 890,869*l.*, of which 839,514*l.* were, according to the Blue Book, produced in Natal. And I say, "according to "the Blue Book" because the returns are compiled on the assumption that all the exports that were not known to have been brought previously into the Colony from seawards were the produce of Natal, whereas, as a matter of fact, by far the greater portion of the wool and of the hides is brought from the Free State and the Transvaal.

The returns are faulty in another way, for they only show the exports seaward, and no return is given of the large quantity of goods, almost entirely manufactures previously imported into

Natal, which are sent by land route to countries beyond our border.

As we levy no duties on our trade with those countries, there are, of course, no frontier custom houses and, therefore, no trustworthy returns can be obtained of the extent of that trade.

The fall in the rate of transport due to the termination of the war brought to Durban a considerably increased quantity of wool and hides for export while a better season and an increased supply of labour enabled our sugar planters to materially increase the quantity of their produce.

The only other export which is noteworthy is that of ostrich feathers. The keeping of ostriches is a new industry in Natal it has been so successfully pursued in the Cape Colony and such very large profits have accrued from it that many Natal Colonists see in it a means of wealth; and during the early part of this year (1881) a large number of birds have been brought into Natal, and the enterprise is now being tried in different parts of the Colony on a considerable scale.

In the year under report, however, no advance appears to have been made over the previous year, the exports being, as nearly as possible, the same.

Of the main articles of export the following have increased in quantity during 1880:—

Increases.

		1879.	1880.
		£	£
Maize		951	4,531
Angora hair		4,879	12,958
Hides, ox and cow		34,893	46,796
Sugar, raw	I.	56,958	215,191
Sheep's wool	II.	415,890	529,321
Quantities	I.	3,010 tons.	11,705 tons.
	II.	12,029,216 lbs.	15,283,049 lbs.

In the following articles the exports have fallen off:—

Decreases.

	1879.	1880.
	£	£
Ostrich feathers	9,410	9,264
Ivory	8,678	7,020
Antelope skins	1,320	662
Arrowroot	3,607	2,824

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It will be observed that the trade of Natal is almost exclusively with the United Kingdom as the following table will show:—

Countries.	Total Imports therefrom.	Total Exports thereto.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - - -	1,980,211	641,798
British Colonies - - - -	150,322	204,627
Foreign countries - - - -	206,051	44,444

The imports from the United States are, however, increasing somewhat rapidly, having been in the year 1880 36,827*l.* more in value than they were in the previous year. In the Inter-colonial trade the effects of the cessation of the war may be remarked in the imports from the Australasian Colonies, from which we mainly derive our supply of flour, having fallen from 97,979*l.* in 1879 to 58,916*l.* in 1880, while from the Cape Colony, whence came some portion of the Zulu war stores, we took less in 1880 by 47,223*l.* than we did in 1879, our exports to that Colony, consisting mainly of sugar, having increased in the same period by 133,798*l.*

Population.

Owing to the disturbed state of South Africa it has been determined not to carry out the provisions of the law passed during 1880 for taking the first census of the population of Natal. The difficulties in the way of taking the census of the large native population of the Colony are very great; a large proportion of the kraals are situated in more or less inaccessible places in the native locations far from European habitations.

The native tax of 14*s.* per hut affords the means of arriving at an approximate estimate of the number of Zulus in the Colony, and the field cornets furnish annually a return of European and other inhabitants in their wards.

From these sources the population is returned at—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Europeans - - - -	13,932	11,339	25,271
Indians - - - -	10,155	5,413	15,568
Zulu and other natives - - -	170,176	188,484	358,660
Total - - -	194,263	205,236	399,499

To this total must be added the number of Indians, 3,309, and of natives, 13,862, in the borough of Durban, the census of which omits to distinguish between the sexes, and also of the Newcastle division, in which the field cornets failed to send in statistics for 1880, the previous return of this division showing—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Europeans - - - -	799	670	1,469
Indians - - - -	6	4	10
Natives - - - - -	4,473	5,597	10,070
Total - -	5,278	6,271	11,549

The estimated total population of Natal is therefore—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Europeans - - - -	14,721	12,009	26,730
Indians - - - - -	10,161	5,417	15,578
Natives - - - - -	174,649	194,081	368,730
Total - -	199,531	211,507	411,038

besides 3,309 Indians and 13,862 Natives in Durban, or a grand total of 428,209.

I have very little faith in even the approximate accuracy of these figures, and believe the numbers under each head but the last to be considerably under estimated,

Legislation.

Thirty-five laws passed the Legislative Council during 1880, of which the following are noteworthy:—

No. 17. Which compels natives to be clothed from the neck to the knee when appearing in certain towns and villages in the Colony.

No. 25. Which provides for the management and working of the railways.

No. 29. Which constitutes a harbour board and vests considerable powers over the port in its hands.

No. 34. An Act to provide for taking a Census during 1881. (This Act, in consequence of the war in the Transvaal and of the

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generally disturbed state of South Africa, has not been carried into operation); and

No. 35. Which provides for the raising of a loan of 1,200,000*l.* for railway construction, of 50,000*l.* to make up deficit in previous railway loan, of 200,000*l.* for public works, and of 250,000*l.* to be paid to the Imperial Government for Zulu war expenses.

Criminal Statistics.

The total number of offences during 1880 was 17,697, as compared with 17,482 in 1879. Of these 12,989 were apprehended, and 10,939 were summarily convicted in the inferior courts, 477 being sent for trial to the superior courts.

Including the native courts there were 789 prisoners tried before the superior courts during 1880; the number in 1879 having been 807. Of these 633 were convicted, 75 were acquitted, and in 81 instances the cases fell through for want of prosecution.

Excluding the cases before the native courts there were 166 indictments issued as compared with 100 for 1879. against 43 Europeans, 9 Hottentots or persons of mixed race, 47 Indians, and 67 natives. One native was executed, and this was the only case in which the extreme penalty of the law was carried out during 1880.

Gaols and Prisons.

Forty-eight white males, 1 white female, 494 coloured males, and 13 coloured females were in confinement on the 31st December in the 13 gaols or district prisons of the Colony. The aggregate number of prisoners which those gaols were capable of holding being returned at 662. But, while the district prisons appear in no case to have been overcrowded, the two central gaols, Pietermaritzburg and Durban, were very much so, the former, which is calculated to contain 150 prisoners, having actually 184, and the latter, which is adapted for 200 inmates, having 250 confined on the day in question.

Plans for the extension of these two gaols have been approved of and are being carried out.

The different gaols and prisons in the Colony have been brought under a new code of regulations which was framed by a Commission specially appointed. Much remains to be done before a satisfactory prison system can be said to be established in Natal. Confinement under the separate system and a proper classification is, for the present, impracticable. The gaols are, however, as a rule, clean, and the prisoners healthy.

The unfitness of the natives for warders, and the high wages which would be required to obtain properly qualified Europeans, are obstacles in the way of establishing a proper punitive system and beyond the irksomeness of restraint and confinement I see little in the conditions of imprisonment in Natal that is calculated to act as a deterrent to crime.

Railways.

The main line between Durban and Pietermaritzburg was opened for passenger traffic only on the 1st December 1880, and for general traffic on the 1st March 1881, and the general returns of receipts and expenditure since the latter date justify a belief that the lines as now existing can be worked at a moderate profit, perhaps amounting to the interest paid on the loan for their construction. In the year under report (1880) however, the general manager shows a net profit of only 6,705*l.* This is accounted for by the disadvantages attending the working of only part of a line with a general staff adapted to the working of the whole line: there is a considerable discrepancy between the General Manager's figures as shown in his report and those of the Treasurer's return of revenue, which is accounted for by the former showing all sources of revenue while the latter only takes account of amounts actually received in the treasury.

That there have been errors made in the construction and equipment of the lines may be admitted, but those errors are capable of and are in fact being retrieved, and on the whole there is I think every reason to be satisfied with the construction of the railway so far.

The extension of the present main line from Pietermaritzburg to the Drakensberg at Van Reenen's Pass is a matter of urgent and vital importance to a Colony which depends for a considerable portion of its prosperity on the commerce of the interior. Provision has been made in the Acts 35 of 1880 and 1 of 1881 for the raising of a loan and the making of a contract for the construction of the railway to Ladysmith, from which to the Drakensberg is but some 25 miles. When this extension has been completed all the trade of the upper portion of the Free State will naturally all to Natal, but without this extension the Cape lines will undoubtedly draw off the whole of this and a considerable portion of the Transvaal trade.

Public Works.

No considerable public works were undertaken during the year under report. The new lunatic asylum was completed to the extent to which it had been decided to execute the original design at a cost of 19,730*l.* Further progress was made with the Ixopo and Fort Pine laagers, 1,849*l.* having been expended on the former, and 3,000*l.* on the latter. Additions were made to the Durban, Estcourt, Verulam, and Umzinto gaols, and a new court room was built for the Resident Magistrate of the Umgeni Division. The main country roads of the Colony cost 25,525*l.* for repairs.

The survey of the coal fields was commenced in June by Mr. F. W. North, who had been specially engaged for this service. The result has been encouraging as showing that large deposits of coal of good quality are to be found in the Klip River Division.

These deposits, when connected by railway with the seaport and the rest of the Colony, cannot fail to exercise a beneficial effect on the commercial and manufacturing importance of Natal. The cost of the survey has so far been about 2,600*l.*

Mounted Police and Volunteers.

The small corps of mounted police was recruited during 1880 up to its full strength of—

1 Commandant.
2 Inspectors.
2 Sub-inspectors.
1 Paymaster.
1 Sergeant-major.
8 Sergeants.
11 Corporals; and
200 Troopers.

The corps was kept in the highest state of efficiency. It was, during the latter half of the year, in consequence of the Basuto disturbances, concentrated on the western frontier, and was employed patrolling the border and visiting the different passes in the Drakensberg. Its cost during 1880 was 28,328*l.*

The volunteers from various causes fell off considerably in numbers after the Zulu war. Five corps were disbanded, and the numbers dwindled from 439 cavalry, 51 artillery, and 270 infantry on 31st December 1878, to 363 cavalry, 36 artillery, and 250 infantry on the 31st December 1879, and to 221 cavalry, 41 artillery, and 168 infantry at the close of the year under report.

There can be no doubt that the strain put upon the volunteer system during the Zulu war by keeping the men in the field continuously for eight months was more severe than it was calculated to bear; but notwithstanding this I look upon the decrease of the volunteers as merely temporary, and anticipate that the wise liberality with which the Legislature has made provision for this force will bear fruit before long in a large increase. It would be matter for regret if the natural aptitude of the youth of Natal for military service were not utilized for the purposes of self-defence. The young men generally are active, athletic, and fond of open air life. They are keen sportsmen and capital shots, and very generally magnificent horsemen. They are also, when commanded by men who understand them, amenable to necessary discipline.

Immigration.

The number of European immigrants introduced under the system of free and assisted passages during 1880 was 874 as compared with 287 in 1879; this number will, it is hoped, be largely increased during the present year, a sum of 20,000*l.* having

been put at the disposal of the Board by the Legislature, the corresponding sum in 1879 having been 10,000*l.*

A special settlement in the vicinity of Maritzburg was established, the immigrants having been placed on the farm free of all cost to themselves, and are to be allowed 12 years in which to pay the instalments due for the purchase of land. This experiment has not proved altogether successful, and, having been a very expensive one, will not probably be repeated.

One thousand six hundred and seventy-three Indian immigrants were landed during the year from five ships, one ship with 505 souls having come from Calcutta, and the remainder from Madras.

The Protector of Immigrants estimates the Indian population of Natal on the 31st December 1880 at 20,536, this, it will be noted, differs from the estimate formed in the general population return of the Colony.

These people appear to thrive in Natal, and a very small per centage of them care to return to their own country, but 195 having left during 1880.

The registered deaths during that year have been 285 and the births 335.

Those who have completed their indentures find no difficulty in obtaining employment at high wages, but a large proportion prefer to remain their own masters, taking up the vocations of pedlars, small shopkeepers, and agriculturalists. Many of them have already amassed considerable wealth, and notwithstanding their somewhat improvident habits the so called "Free Indians" form an important class in the community.

Education.

In the schools for Europeans under Government inspection there were in regular attendance during 1880, 1,755 boys and 1,232 girls, the corresponding figures in 1879 having been 1,459 and 1,108; and the Inspector of schools is now able to say in his report "I do not know any corner of the Colony where education "of some kind is not obtainable."

Assuming that our European population is approximately correctly returned at 26,730, it will be seen that one in nine of that population is being educated more or less under Government supervision. There are also a considerable number of private schools in the Colony, and many of the well-to-do families in the country districts employ resident tutors or governesses. I calculate from such returns as are available that there are 3,942 European children in the Colony between the ages of five and fifteen years, and, therefore, after making due allowance for private education, I have warrant for believing that there are few of the children of European parents who are being allowed to grow up without education; the quality of that education is, I believe, improving. So far as the State-aided schools are concerned the Council of Education is insisting on their having duly certificated teachers. And the result of the annual examination

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for certificates is encouraging, both as regards the number of competitors and the standard of their acquirements. In support of this I extract the following table showing the progress made during the past three years in the annual collective examination which is held simultaneously in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, under the strictest supervision, for Government certificates of proficiency in elementary subjects:—

Year.	No. of Competitors.	No. who gained Certificates.	Maximum Marks.	Highest No. of Marks gained.	Lowest No. of Marks gained.	Average No. of Marks gained.
1878	99	11	1,200	923	128	557
1879	90	24	1,200	1,081	289	684
1880	176	50	1,200	1,132	188	658

As regards the higher education, I regret that I cannot make so satisfactory a report. Parents generally appear to fail to recognise the value of anything higher than is sufficient to qualify their offspring to take their place in the store or the counting-house. Children are removed from school to take part in the battle of life when the real education of their minds is only just beginning, and the work of our high schools is thereby reduced to a level very little above that of the primary schools.

Our high school teachers are, I am happy to say, zealous and skilful, and are doing their best in common with the Council of Education and the thinking portion of the community to create a desire among the Colonists to bestow upon their children something more than the "three R's" as their mental stock-in-trade. The Council aims at establishing in each of the smaller towns, or rather villages, of the Colony a primary school under Government control, which shall afford boarding accommodation to children who live at too great a distance to attend the school daily. The Verulam School is the first of these. It was built during 1878-9, at a cost of 2,254*l.*, and is believed to be effectually fulfilling the purpose for which it was erected.

Another school of the same character is in course of erection at Ladysmith, but owing to unforeseen obstacles its construction has been much delayed and its cost has already reached 4,000*l.* Including the two high schools, the three Government primary Schools in the towns, and the one in the country, there were during 1880 43 schools for Europeans receiving State aid, at a cost to the Colony of 8,078*l.*, and the total cost of European education, including buildings and inspection, was 11,909*l.*

Very little progress has, I regret to say, been made in the direction of educating our large native population. There were during 1880 but 52 schools, all under missionary control, as compared with 44 during 1879. The yearly grant made to these

schools was in 1879 2,049*l.*, and in 1880 2,312*l.*, the number of children in average attendance having been 1,471 in the former and 2,052 in the latter year. It will thus be seen that, if our estimate of our native population is correct, but 1 in 186 of the total or 1 in 27 of the children between the ages of 5 and 15 is receiving any sort of education. That there are great obstacles in the way of educating the natives there can be no doubt, but that after 40 years of English rule no better results have been obtained is creditable neither to the Government nor to the Colony.

To promote the education of our fast increasing Indian population an Indian Education School Board has been formed, and its first step has been to request the Government of India to send to the Colony a duly qualified Inspector of Schools. This official has not yet arrived, and until he does so Indian education is confined to half a dozen small schools, with a total of 196 pupils.

In Durban and Pietermaritzburg I have been glad to find that several Indian children are attending the primary schools, where they display intelligence which at least equals that of their European fellow scholars, with whom also they appear to be on perfectly friendly terms.

Agriculture.

Eighty thousand nine hundred and ninety-two acres are reported by the field cornets as having been under cultivation by Europeans, and 216,493 by natives during the year 1880. The corresponding acreage during 1879 having been 53,907 and 152,703, and in 1878 45,115 and 182,463, exclusive of the town lands of Pietermaritzburg and Durban. These figures appear to me to show a steady progress, the check given to native cultivation in 1879 having been no doubt due to the fact that 22,000 able-bodied men were engaged in military service during that year.

Improved machinery amongst the Europeans, and the extensive introduction of ploughs amongst the natives, are instrumental in bringing year by year a larger acreage under cultivation. But the native system is essentially a wasteful one, no manuring being in any case attempted, but the ground when exhausted being abandoned and fresh broken up.

In many cases the already too scanty forests of the Colony are wasted by clearances b ing made to afford richer ground for the cultivation of the native "mealie" crop. For want of a proper forest system but little check can be kept, and the denudation of at least the upland portion of the country is inevitable unless some serious steps are taken to prevent the destruction of the remaining Crown forests.

A Commission sat on this question during 1878-9, and made a valuable report accompanied by a series of recommendations, and some practical legislation in this direction will, no doubt, be attempted, when the political horizon has somewhat cleared.

Maize was, as in former years, the staple corn crop of the Colony. The native cultivation being almost entirely confined to that and

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to Kafir corn (*amabele*, a kind of millet). By the Europeans oats, hay, and potatoes are grown in large quantities.

The cultivation of coffee shows signs of revival, and the sugar-cane crop of the coast districts has nearly doubled during the year under report; the quantity of sugar made having been 8,450 tons in 1879, and 16,143 during 1880.

The prices of all sorts of farm produce did not fall to the extent that was expected, much capital was invested in farms, and I confidently look forward to being able to report a considerable advance in the agriculture of the Colony during the year 1881.

Closing Remarks.

In closing my report I must not fail to draw attention to the growing importance of this Colony.

In revenue and expenditure but two of Her Majesty's Colonies not having responsible government, Ceylon and Mauritius, exceed Natal. As a consumer of English manufactures this Colony takes a high place. Goods of nearly 2,000,000*l.* (1,980,211*l.*) in value having been imported from the United Kingdom during 1880. Ceylon in 1878, the last year on which I have statistics, took direct from England but little over 1,250,000*l.*, Mauritius under 500,000*l.*, Jamaica 750,000*l.*, Barbadoes 350,000*l.*, Trinidad 644,000*l.*, British Guiana a little over 1,000,000*l.*, Tasmania 373,000*l.*, and Western Australia 153,000*l.*

As an exporting Colony Natal does not occupy so prominent a position, but in this respect signs are not wanting of improvement. The European population is steadily if slowly increasing, capital is being invested, railways are being made, bridges and other public works are being constructed, and if the unfortunate war that has occurred with the Boers in the Transvaal since the year under report terminated does not react on the trade and progress of this Colony, the day is not far distant when Natal may claim to take her place among the most prosperous communities under Her Majesty's rule.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. B. H. MITCHELL,
Administrator.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

No. 18.

Governor JANISCH, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, St. Helena, February 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book Returns for the year 1880.

2. The revenue for the year, estimated at 13,017*l.*, amounts to 11,950*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*; and the expenditure, estimated at 12,098*l.* 6*s.*, amounts to 11,869*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

3. The decrease of 1,066*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* in the estimated receipts arises from the circumstance that during the year there had been no receipts (beyond a trivial sum) from vessels resorting to the Port for repairs and using the wharf and cranes for the discharge and reshipment of their cargo. The receipts from this source have averaged annually about 1,200*l.*, the direct loss to the revenue of this amount during the past year is also necessarily attended with the further loss to the Island of a large amount spent on such occasions in the employment of labour, &c., in the unloading, reloading, and repairing of vessels. These receipts are in their nature dependent on accidents and contingencies which are less likely to occur in proportion as increasing care is taken to prevent the sending of unseaworthy ships on long and perilous voyages; there has also been much depression in the general trade of the Island in the last year, which may be partly attributable to the above cause and partly to the languishing state of employment for sailing vessels in the Eastern trade, for when such vessels fail to obtain remunerative freights they are the more careful to shun the expenses of intermediate ports of call.

4. The expenditure includes this year a further sum of 521*l.*, expended in repairing damages caused by the flood in 1878; the outlay on this account will cease at the end of 1881. The repairs of public buildings urgently necessary have required a sum of 298*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* in excess of the estimates; the chief portion of this amount (199*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*) was required for repairs to the roof and floors of the gaol, damaged by white ants, the gaol being one of the few public buildings which had not yet undergone the necessary reconstruction with materials capable of resisting the attacks of the ant.

5. In the Report of last year it was stated that the amount advanced by the Government of the Cape of Good Hope to St. Helena pensioners resident in that Colony had not been reclaimed; these accounts have not yet been received, but the amount due and reserved in the chest for that service will be about 1,180*l.* to the close of 1880.

ST. HELENA.

6. The Pension List, which amounted to 2,816*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* at the close of 1879, has been reduced to 2,276*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* by the decease of the following pensioners:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Mr. William Wilde - - -	440	0	0
„ William Browne - -	31	15	5
„ R. Hawkes - - -	14	0	6
„ Michael Lee - - -	17	0	8
„ I. Mahomet - - -	10	0	0
„ John Smith - - -	26	15	4
Total - - -	539	11	11

Of the above list, 451*l.* have fallen in since the estimates for 1881 were prepared and transmitted, and a saving to that amount will therefore be effected in those estimates.

7. The Public Debt has been further reduced by the annual payment of 750*l.* on account of debentures, leaving a total now outstanding of 10,750*l.*

8. In the Foreign Consulates Mr. H. I. Crouch has been appointed to succeed Mr. George W. Roosevelt as Consul for the United States, and Mr. Henry James Bovell has been appointed Vice-Consul for Brazils.

9. The Imports of the year amount to 54,272*l.* as against 64,585*l.* in 1879, and the Exports 3,485*l.* against 5,127*l.* in 1879; these figures are exclusive of the amount of oil transhipped at this Port from the Southern Whale Fishery amounting to 50,730*l.* against 30,190*l.* in 1879. The amount of fibre of Island produce exported is nearly the same as that for the previous year, and amounted to 502 bales, valued at 1,890*l.*

10. The total number of vessels calling at the Port was 564, of these 26 were vessels of war and transports, one yacht, 46 whalers, 41 merchant steamers, and 450 merchant sailing vessels.

11. The returns under the heads of schools, gaols, hospitals, and asylums are similar to those of the previous year, and are satisfactory; there have been no convictions in the Supreme Court for indictable offences, and the summary cases before the magistrates have further diminished to a total of 195. The lunatic asylum contains only two inmates, who have both been under care for several years past.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. R. JANISCH.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 19.

Governor A. E. HAVELOCK, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House,
July 20, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit in duplicate the Blue Book of Sierra Leone for the year 1880, together with a report thereon, by the Colonial Secretary and Treasurer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK,
Governor-in-Chief

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT on the SIERRA LEONE BLUE BOOK for 1880.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The net revenue of 1880 was 72,559*l.*, and is the largest recorded within the last five years, which period, for purposes of comparison, is dealt with throughout this report.

2. The expenditure was 68,129*l.*, at least 10,000*l.* higher than in the preceding year, but this may be accounted for as follows:—

A repayment to the Imperial Government of 5,000*l.* on account of the loan of 38,000*l.*, and about 3,400*l.* incurred in connexion with the demonetisation of dollars, together with the sum of 1,600*l.* written off, previously standing as an asset against the Harbour Works Department. Owing to the large balance, 12,842*l.* brought forward from the preceding year, together with the favourable difference between the payments and receipts in 1880, the Colony was enabled to pay off a further sum of 16,000*l.* in liquidation of the debt to Mr. C. Heddle incurred in June 1876. A comparative table of the receipts and disbursements for the past five years is appended.

SIERRA LEONE.

COMPARISON of REVENUE 1876 to 1880.

Head of Receipt.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Arrears of revenue -	2,204 9	—	—	1,870 13 11	190 16 7
Fixed.					
Customs - -	48,334 17 0	49,212 15 10	56,018 8 5	63,068 10 11	64,799 7 11
Licenses - -	4,160 4 0	3,723 18 0	3,758 14 0	3,561 10 0	3,455 4 0
Rents (exclusive of lands) - -	77 2 6	100 17 6	60 2 6	66 5 0	84 0 0
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court -	1,358 19 2	1,253 1 10	1,007 9 7	1,198 13 5	1,339 16 8
Fees of office - -	0 2 6	11 1 0	—	—	—
Land sales - -	33 12 0	40 13 0	28 18 0	27 4 6	57 1 0
Sale of Government property - -	106 2 8	124 8 10	82 9 7	23 1 9	23 0 11
Reimbursements in aid	165 13 11	184 0 10	402 16 11	147 16 3	144 7 5
Miscellaneous receipts	69 16 0	10 2 9	220 10 0	428 19 5	69 3 0
Hospital stoppages -	1,665 8 5	1,183 10 11	1,104 11 2	968 10 6	944 9 8
Postage - -	468 4 0	478 15 9	441 9 3	515 7 1	522 5 7
Incidental.					
Reimbursements in aid	219 1 10	50 9 0	715 2 6	378 18 0	436 12 5
Miscellaneous receipts	333 15 1	—	—	—	492 7 5
Postage - -	68 2 7	—	—	—	—
	59,265 9 5	56,373 15 3	63,840 11 11	72,255 10 9	72,558 12 7
Receipts in Aid.					
Parliamentary grant, Colonial steamer -	3,000 0 0	—	5,250 0 0	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0
Loans - - -	5,000 0 0	38,000 0 0	—	—	—
Special Receipts.					
Reimbursements in aid (public works) -	269 17 2	45 8 0	—	—	—
Refund Colonial steamer.	32 5 0	40 16 5	32 1 3	534 16 7	449 8 9
	67,567 11 7	94,459 19 8	69,142 13 2	75,790 7 4	76,008 1 4

COMPARISON of EXPENDITURE 1876 to 1880.

Head of Disbursement.	1876.	1877.	1878	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Arrears of expenditure	11,852 8 8	534 16 9	553 11 9	3,696 17 5	10,075 7 2
Ordinary and Fixed.					
Establishments -	32,925 9 0	29,452 14 0	29,339 11 9	27,105 3 2	28,095 15 3
Miscellaneous Civil Services.					
Revenue Services (exclusive of establishment) - -	—	—	—	10 0 0	3 1 0
Pensions, retired allowances, &c. -	3,430 14 8	3,618 13 3	3,100 5 2	2,803 13 4	3,069 13 4
Administration of justice (exclusive of establishment).	1,055 3 11	167 17 3	292 12 7	476 4 5	306 1 11
Ecclesiastical (exclusive of establishment) - -	95 14 0	64 13 10	80 11 3	61 7 5	74 15 1
Charitable allowances	379 16 0	376 12 4	374 2 2	399 0 0	401 0 0
Education (exclusive of establishment) -	766 12 5	66 18 11	50 4 0	55 9 7	47 11 0
Hospitals (exclusive of establishment) -	2,582 10 11	3,353 17 1	2,794 11 1	2,527 18 3	2,298 2 4
Police and gaols (exclusive of establishment) - -	2,347 2 1	2,598 1 10	2,116 0 11	1,913 2 9	2,067 17 5
Rent - - -	771 17 9	347 9 6	306 14 4	345 12 11	310 8 0
Transport services -	1,639 19 9	682 0 9	1,636 15 10	3,827 9 6	3,787 15 6
Conveyance of mails -	713 18 8	322 16 8	304 6 0	362 15 2	350 7 6

Comparison of Expenditure, 1876 to 1880—*continued.*

Head of Disbursement.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Works and buildings	1,185 15 1	1,532 18 1	2,062 8 5	3,935 5 4	3,415 7 0
Roads, streets, and bridges	1,027 13 6	921 14 4	1,190 9 7	1,189 17 7	861 14 0
Miscellaneous services	6,093 10 3	653 0 7	750 18 3	608 10 6	4,407 15 0
Aborigines	1,579 14 7	1,584 11 8	2,176 13 2	2,307 14 3	3,104 11 6
Drawbacks and refund	424 9 7	499 1 9	512 8 9	1,085 5 1	552 12 4
Interest	3,970 4 5	3,010 15 0	4,812 16 6	3,546 15 0	3,346 2 5
Sinking fund	1,500 0 0	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0
Sanitary (exclusive of establishment)	341 2 1	307 14 8	354 5 4	544 2 1	533 1 4
	74,683 17 4	51,096 8 3	53,809 6 10	57,802 3 9	68,128 19 1
Special.					
Public works—harbour	1,880 7 9	1,683 8 5	—	—	—
Colonial steamer	1,977 15 9	12,207 16 6	3,304 12 2	3,005 8 6	3,645 16 0
Debt repaid	—	23,000 0 0	—	—	16,000 0 0
	78,542 0 10	87,987 13 2	57,113 19 0	60,807 12 3	87,774 15 1

Revenue.

3. The principal source of the increase of revenue for 1879 and 1880 over the three preceding years was "Customs." Indeed there has been a steady increase, for whilst in 1876 the Custom receipts were 48,300*l.*, in 1880 they amounted to 64,800*l.*, chiefly occurring under the head of imports. In other respects there has been but slight variation.

There is a marked increase in the amount collected under the head of exports in the year 1879, 9,774*l.*, which was clearly 3,000 in excess of 1880 or the years preceding. Reference is made to this in the remarks respecting the exports and trade of the Settlement.

Expenditure.

4. The principal increase under the head of expenditure occurred in the items Transport, Aborigines, Miscellaneous, and Arrears of Expenditure. The first of these was greatly owing to the expenses incurred in expeditions undertaken by the late Governor-in-Chief, Sir Samuel Rowe. The support of the Kikonkeh customs station is also placed under this vote. The second, Aborigines, was due to an increased number of chiefs and their followers coming to Freetown, maintained at Government expense. The third, to the demonetisation of dollars, which has already been alluded to, and the sum of 1,600*l.* written off as before mentioned and the fourth to the sum of 5,000*l.* previously mentioned as repaid to the Imperial Government on account of the loan of 38,000*l.* in 1877.

5. A brief reference might be made to the year 1877 in explanation of the above figures, at which period the Colony was unfortunately much involved, when a sum of 38,000*l.* was lent by the Imperial Government to liquidate a previous debt of 23,000*l.* to the Bank of England, and to provide for the purchase of a new Government steamer and a steam launch.

SIERRA LEONE.

Public Debt.

6. At the close of each of the past five years this has stood as follows:—

	£
1876 - - -	73,000
1877 - - -	88,000
1878 - - -	104,000
1879 - - -	104,000
1880 - - -	83,000

7. The actual state of the finances of the Settlement will perhaps be better understood upon reference to the following statement of assets and liabilities at the close of 1880.

Settlement of Sierra Leone.

STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st December 1880.

Assets.	£ s. d.	£ s. d
Cash in Colonial chest on 31st December 1880 as per certificate of Board of Survey	5,896 4 4	
Cash in hands of Crown Agents as per December account - - -	6,945 19 9	
Advances due to Colony - - -	2,921 12 11	
Arrears of revenue due - - -	149 8 1	
Parliamentary grant due on account of Colonial steamer - - - -	2,250 0 0	
Deposits invested - - - -	1,000 0 0	
Sinking fund accumulated - - -	10,184 10 9	
In transit - - - - -	—	
General funds invested - - -	8,000 0 0	
		37,347 15 10
Liabilities.		
Loan due by Colony to Public Works Loan	50,000 0 0	
Deposits - - - - -	2,365 11 8	
Salaries and other expenses unpaid, 31st December 1880 - - - -	2,619 6 3	
Loan due by Colony to Imperial Government	33,000 0 0	
		87,984 17 11
Excess of liabilities - - -		50,637 2 1

Military Expenditure.

8. The Settlement contributes nothing to the maintenance of the military stationed in Freetown, beyond granting to both officers and men an allowance in lieu of remission of customs duties. Payments for the last five years have been as under:—

	£ s. d.
1876 - - - -	310 7 11
1877 - - - -	329 10 1
1878 - - - -	308 0 10
1879 - - - -	311 12 6
1880 - - - -	327 10 4

9. As the only duties which affect the regiment are those on wines, spirits, and tobacco, with a small wharfage duty of about 1*s.* per package, it is considered that the allowance of 6*d.* per diem to the officers and 6*d.* per month to the men is sufficient to cover any duties that would be remitted unless this allowance was made.

10. The keeper of the canteen at the barracks is granted a free license.

11. The garrison at the close of the year consisted of 379 rank and file of the 1st West India Regiment.

Public Works.

12. No works of any magnitude were carried out in 1880, and though sums of 3,415*l.* and 861*l.* were expended respectively on works and buildings and roads, streets, and bridges, they were incurred principally in the upkeep of public buildings and the repair of wharves, bridges, streets, and embankments. The amount for buildings appears large, but a perusal of the return of the various works will at once exhibit the numerous fruitful sources of expense with which the Colonial Surveyor has to contend.

Legislation.

13. Of the Ordinances passed in 1880, the most important were Nos. 2 and 10. The former was "An Ordinance to declare "the Spanish, Mexican, and South American dollar not a legal "tender in the Settlement of Sierra Leone." This demonetisation cost the Settlement roundly speaking about 3,400*l.* In order to supply this deficiency an Ordinance No. 4 of 4th June, "For "increasing the duties of customs" and levying an import duty of five per cent. on other than specifically paid articles, passed the Legislature but did not receive the Royal sanction.

14. Nos. 3, 7, and 9 were supply Ordinances, the latter providing for the service of 1881.

15. No. 10 was a voluminous Ordinance containing some 219 clauses, repealing nine Ordinances and one Order in Council, and consolidating all the customs enactments. It makes "Provision "for the management and regulation of the customs and trade of "the Settlement of Sierra Leone." It gives increased powers to the Governor and Collector of Customs generally and clearly defines importation, exportation, warehousing, and transhipment. Smuggling and its penalties are exhaustively described, and the course of procedure for recovering the same and enforcing forfeitures is not omitted. It is the most complete and important Ordinance passed for some years.

SIERRA LEONE.

Civil Establishment.

16. The most important changes and appointments which took place during the year were as follows: Sir Samuel Rowe left for England on 3rd May and was succeeded by Mr. W. W. Streeten, Chief Justice, as Administrator-in-Chief, who had previously arrived from England on 3rd March. Mr. F. Evans, First Assistant Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, accompanied the Governor-in-Chief to England. Mr. Laborde was appointed Private Secretary, and Captain H. F. Richmond, an Assistant Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, was temporarily appointed Commandant of Kikonkeh, until October 18th, when he returned to England on leave.

Mr. Banbury, another Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, having arrived on 19th May, was placed in charge of the Post Office during the same month, Mr. I. Fitzjohn being invalided with a view to pension. Mr. Jenkins, Colonial Surveyor, left for England, on the 26th July. Mr. Stuart, Collector of Customs, was absent on leave from 3rd January to 9th June, Mr. Wall, the commandant of British Sherbro, who had recently returned from leave of absence acting for him, Mr. J. C. Loggie, Inspector-General of Police, acted for Mr. Wall until that Officer resumed charge at British Sherbro on 1st July. On 6th December Mr. Laborde was despatched on a special mission to Tyama in the Mendi country, Lieut. T. M. G. Thackeray being appointed Private Secretary. Mr. Revington, Sanitary Inspector, arrived on the 12th April. Mr. William Budge, Manager 2nd Eastern District, arrived on the same date.

17. The re-arrangement of the judicial department came into operation this year. Mr. F. F. Pinkett, Crown Solicitor and Master of Supreme Court, arrived on 20th June. Mr. A. Montagu left for England on 31st May, after a residence of 25 years, and died three days after his arrival there. Mr. Pinkett was appointed Registrar-General on 24th June.

18. Mr. Adolphus, Police Magistrate, returned from leave on 7th March. Captain Jackson, R. A., Inspector-General of Police arrived on 13th December. Lieut. Compton, R. N., commanding the Colonial steamer "Prince of Wales," arrived on 9th April.

19. In the Legislative Council two appointments were made on 1st April viz.: the Honourable J. Broadhurst and the Honourable J. B. Pratt. The latter died on the 20th July.

Pensions.

20. Amounted in 1880 to 4,176*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* The principal increases being those of 875*l.* to Chief Justice Huggins and 95*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* to Mr. I. Fitzjohn, Postmaster.

21. On the other hand there were decreases caused by the death of Mr. A. Pike, late Treasurer, of 500*l.* per annum, and towards the close of the year by that of Mr. John Carr, a late Chief Justice of 1,000*l.*

Coins, Exchanges, &c.

22. Smooth or defaced British coin is nearly always refused by the native population, and amongst the unenlightened there is a disposition not to accept coins not bearing the image and superscription of Her Majesty. The amount of smooth coin collected by the Treasury department and transmitted to the mint was in 1880, 650*l.*; in 1878 the sum of 500*l.* was remitted.

23. There is a considerable quantity of copper coinage in circulation. Five-franc pieces are current at the rate of 3*s.* 10½*d.*

24. The rate of exchange is generally low, and transactions frequently take place at par.

Imports, Exports, Trade, &c.

25. Beneath is a small table showing the value of imports and exports for the past five years. Combined, the trade of 1880 compares favourably with the average of the four preceding years, viz., 821,000*l.* as against 739,000*l.*

——	Imports.			Exports.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1876	272,606	6	1	297,035	19	9	569,642	5	10
1877	368,441	19	5	388,530	8	6	756,972	7	11
1878	465,469	9	8	391,646	0	1	857,115	9	9
1879	380,387	2	1	391,080	11	1	771,467	13	2
1880	445,358	6	2	375,985	19	4	821,344	5	6

26. There is a falling off in the exports, which may be attributed to a failure in the ground nut crop, principally the result of the disordered condition of the Quiah country. The value of the nuts has also declined, the average price per bushel being 1*s.* 8*d.* in 1880 as compared with 2*s.* in 1879. It is almost unnecessary to mention so well known a fact that these petty wars seriously interfere with the progress of the trade of the Settlement by their baneful influence on the agricultural industry of the surrounding tribes.

27. The imports, however, are 65,000*l.* in excess of the preceding year, but, as a consequence, it generally follows, that where the exports have been exceptionally good in one year, there is an increased importation in the succeeding one, people having more money to expend.

Imports.

28. The total imports may be divided into two classes. Dutiable goods, and those free of duty. The dutiable consist of ale and porter, spirits, wine, tobacco, guns, and gunpowder. The total value of these goods in 1880 was 82,792*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* leaving duty free 362,565*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*

SIERRA LEONE.

29. Attached is a table giving the values of the dutiable goods during the past five years, viz :—

	£	s.	d.
1876 - - -	70,935	19	3
1877 - - -	73,522	13	7
1878 - - -	74,893	1	3
1879 - - -	68,948	3	9
1880 - - -	82,792	18	7

showing an increase in 1880 of about 13,000*l.* over 1879 and 8,000*l.* over 1878.

30. Taking those free of duty and dividing the principal articles under the following heads, viz. :—

1. Dress, dress fabrics, and haberdashery.
2. Articles of food.
3. Building materials and articles for personal comfort.
4. Books and stationery.
5. Miscellaneous,

some idea can be formed of the advances made in the various sections of trade during the period comprised in the following table, viz., from 1876 to 1880.

—	1876.			1877.			1878.			1879.			1880.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Dress fabrics and haberdashery viz :— cotton goods, woollen goods, apparel, boots and shoes, hats and caps, umbrellas, haberdashery -	125,369	10	8	120,937	11	11	283,575	14	7	187,462	11	5	212,523	14	3
2. Articles of food, viz : — tinned provisions, bread, flour, tea, coffee, butter, sugar, lard, and other groceries - -	32,014	13	11	22,505	5	0	29,091	5	11	52,953	10	2	54,869	0	9
3. Building materials and articles for personal comfort, viz :— bricks, cement, lime, lumber, &c. furniture, glassware earthenware, musical instruments, clocks and watches, oil, matches and candles, jewellery, soap, and perfumery - -	15,948	1	0	18,573	14	6	26,437	9	7	25,024	16	11	27,949	6	4
4. Books and stationery - -	2,374	17	8	3,885	19	0	2,872	12	7	3,728	4	5	2,701	19	11
5. Miscellaneous, viz:— hardware, cutlery, salt, specie, iron, medicine, beads.	19,849	5	7	21,044	1	9	35,248	12	9	29,336	17	1	52,992	1	6
	195,556	8	10	186,946	12	2	377,225	15	5	298,506	0	0	351,036	2	9

31. It will be noticed that a large quantity of goods are admitted free, the only charge to which they are subject being a small wharfage duty, whilst on the other hand the sum raised on those goods which are liable to duty is very large, in comparison with their value. As a proof of this, in the year 1880, dutiable goods of the gross value of 82,792*l.* were imported, whilst the

duty collected on the same amounted to 45,020*l.* or over 50 per cent. A large portion of this sum is paid by the consumers who reside in the interior, and who, though feeling but slightly the amount which is thus added for duty to the article, which by the time it has reached them has increased to 200 or 300 per cent. of its original cost, nevertheless indirectly pay this large proportion of the import duties, as they similarly contribute to the export duties by an indirect tax on their own productions. Seeing that at present there are no direct taxes on either lands or houses, no market dues, and no trade taxes, except on the sale of spirituous liquors, the people of Sierra Leone are, without doubt, a most lightly taxed community.

Exports.

32. A comparative table of the quantities of the principal exports for the last five years is here inserted.

	—	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	Rate of Duty.
Dutiable.	Benni seed	17,257 bus.	23,114⅓ bus.	46,847½ bus.	27,249 bus.	22,200 bus.	1*d.* bus.
	Cola nuts	1,953 pkgs.	1,573 pkgs.	2,288 pkgs.	2,447 pkgs.	2,331 pkgs.	5*s.* cwt.
	Ground nuts	220,903 bus.	204,992 bus.	357,560 bus.	608,522 bus.	247,707 bus.	1*d.* bus.
	Gum	cwt. qr. lb. 5,226 2 3	cwt. qr. lb. 4,366 2 5	cwt. qr. lb. 3,904 2 14	cwt. 5,071	cwt. qr. lb. 6,859 0 22	2*s.* cwt.
	Hides	213,756 lbs.	170,832 lbs.	41,752 hides	53,380 hides	46,343 hides	2*d.* each
	Palm oil	349,794 gals.	348,501½ gals.	347,265 gals.	440,175 gals.	292,306 gals.	1*d.* gal.
	Palm kernels	316,244 bus.	514,020½ bus.	404,909 bus.	513,258 bus.	363,318 bus.	1*d.* bus.
Free.	Ginger	cwt. qr. lb. 18,730 0 22	cwt. qr. lb. 22,042 2 3	cwt. qr. lb. 19,321 2 25	cwt. qr. lb. 37,214 0 7	cwt. qr. lb. 16,801 0 24	—
	Rubber	486,605 lbs.	609,285 lbs.	687,134 lbs.	379,220 lbs.	829,636 lbs.	—

33. It will be observed that the ground nut crop of 1879 exceeded by about 350,000 bushels the quantity raised in 1880, and as the same excess occurred on almost every other item of dutiable exports, the increase in the amount collected on exports in 1879 referred to in paragraph 3 may thereby be accounted for.

Shipping.

34. A table of vessels entered and cleared for the last five years is attached. The return includes the mail steamers.

ENTERED

—	Sailing.	Tonnage.	Crew.	Steam.	Tonnage.	Crew.	Total Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crew.
1876	292	33,617	2,244	120	107,715	5,045	412	141,332	7,289
1877	267	35,983	2,068	103	105,391	4,736	370	141,374	6,804
1878	235	34,737	1,870	143	130,859	5,575	378	165,596	7,445
1879	215	27,284	1,669	218	162,735	7,086	433	190,019	8,755
1880	205	27,044	1,629	194	172,513	6,864	399	199,557	8,493

CLEARED.

1876	280	34,575	2,240	115	101,501	4,790	395	136,076	7,030
1877	288	39,417	2,263	102	104,585	4,808	390	144,002	7,071
1878	252	37,202	2,065	150	127,257	5,722	412	164,459	7,787
1879	225	31,087	1,875	218	159,676	7,108	443	190,754	8,983
1880	213	28,817	1,720	198	172,909	6,896	411	201,726	8,616

Agriculture.

35. Is unfortunately very little attended to on the Peninsula, and left to itself Sierra Leone would not produce enough food to feed its population for three months. Happily, some attempts at cultivation have been made under the encouragement of the Government, by granting land at a trifling rental to the Honourable W. Grant, and Mr. S. Lewis, who are carrying out large experiments with every prospect of success.

Gaols.

36. The total number of persons committed to gaol in 1880 was 471. Of these 22 were for debt, whilst 51 embraced political prisoners and those refused bail, and 398 for penal imprisonment. The daily average number was 130.

37. The above figures do not include the short-sentence prisoners committed in the districts who served their sentences in the district lock-ups. Adding these to the before-mentioned figures it gives a daily average of 155; the cost of maintaining them being 1*s.* each per diem.

Hospitals, Asylums, &c.

38. The number of patients admitted into the Colonial Hospital in Freetown in 1880, and including those remaining in the hospital at the beginning of this year was 583. The daily average was about 34. At the Male and Female Incurable Hospitals at Kissy, the number of admissions was 124, being a daily average of 57. To the Hospital at British Sherbro 83 patients were admitted.

39. The number of admissions to the Colonial Hospital for the past five years has been:—

Year.	Males.	Female.	Total.
1876	382	125	507
1877	410	147	557
1878	375	138	513
1879	362	148	510
1880	376	130	506

40. The average per-centage of deaths has been:

1876	- - -	13 per cent.
1877	- -	11 „
1878	- - -	11 „
1879	- -	13 „
1880	- - -	12 „

41. The greatest number of deaths are attributed to ulcers, abscesses, and local inflammations.

42. The average daily cost per patient in 1880, for all the hospitals and Lunatic Asylum was 2*s.* 10*d.*

43. The daily average number of patients treated in the Lunatic Asylum was 38.

Meteorological.

44. The rainfall recorded during the past four years has been:

1877 - - - -	131·60
1878 - - - -	163·14
1879 - - - -	168·11
1880 - - - -	161·29

Attached is a complete table for 1880. Register of rainfall in 1880 kept at the Colonial Hospital, latitude 8° 30′ N., longitude 13° 18′ W. Time of observation 5.30 A.M. Above ground 14 inches. Above sea level 50 feet.

Date.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	—	—	—	—	·48	·02	2·40	4·25	·09	·40	·25	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1·45	·40	·54	—	—	·1
3	—	—	—	·95	—	·11	1·13	·13	·56	·12	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	·35	·17	·28	1·00	2·75	·80	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	·08	·57	1·00	·45	—	·04	—
6	—	—	—	—	·08	—	·92	—	1·40	·40	—	—
7	—	—	—	—	·15	1·38	·11	·15	1·05	·37	·47	—
8	—	—	—	—	—	·08	·03	—	·40	—	1·00	—
9	—	—	—	—	·10	·06	·04	1·24	1·58	·25	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	1·03	—	·03	5·40	3·05	—	—	—
11	—	—	—	·10	·32	·10	·45	·55	1·90	·25	1·02	—
12	—	—	·11	—	·70	·10	2·70	2·73	10·40	2·72	—	—
13	—	—	—	—	·05	·18	·42	2·60	·55	·43	—	—
14	—	—	—	·33	—	3·85	3·25	2·82	·05	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	·26	·06	3·00	4·20	·30	·25	·46	—	·2
16	—	—	—	·30	—	1·07	·62	1·65	—	2·00	—	—
17	—	—	—	—	—	·15	—	—	—	·80	·08	—
18	—	—	—	—	—	·05	·25	—	·15	·62	·33	—
19	—	—	—	·03	·45	—	1·57	·38	—	·29	·83	—
20	—	—	—	·55	·02	—	2·61	3·15	—	·27	—	—
21	—	—	—	—	·10	—	1·17	1·15	—	·75	—	—
22	—	—	—	—	·96	·02	1·45	·25	—	—	—	—
23	—	—	—	2·14	—	·12	·39	·56	—	·71	·01	—
24	—	—	—	—	·09	1·63	·27	·47	·37	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	·75	·85	·09	·96	2·52	3·75	—	·03	—
26	—	·10	—	—	·38	·05	2·85	1·66	·65	—	—	—
27	—	·23	—	·55	1·08	1·35	·40	2·50	4·50	—	—	—
28	—	—	—	·98	—	·05	1·10	—	2·80	·06	—	—
29	—	—	—	1·17	·78	·03	1·75	·02	1·85	·06	—	—
30	—	—	—	·80	·06	—	·03	—	·15	·56	—	—
31	—	—	—	—	—	—	·78	·09	—	·02	—	—
—	—	·33	·11	8·91	9·74	13·74	35·55	36·97	39·24	12·34	4·06	·3

45. The record at Kissy, a village three miles distant, for the same period shows some 18 inches less. There is a marked difference, however, between the Colonial register and that kept by the military authorities. In 1880 this amounted to 40 inches, the latter being in excess of the former. It may be accounted for by the fact that the latter gauge is kept at an altitude of about 150 feet higher.

46. The highest average reading of the thermometer for the year was 95°, and the lowest 69° 33′. The highest average solar radiation was 153°, and the lowest terrestrial 57° 50′.

47. The mean highest and lowest readings of the barometer were 30° 10′ and 29° 80′ respectively. The mean dew point was 76° 6′.

48. There were 63 thunderstorms during the year, of which the greater number occurred during the months of May, June, and October.

Public Health, Sanitary.

49. The sum spent in sanitary improvements in 1880, exclusive of the salaries of the Inspector and clerk, was 553*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* The arrival of the Inspector in April resulted in a much

SIERRA LEONE.

improved condition of the town; and the public health cannot fail to be benefited by the rigid carrying out of the Sanitary Act of 16th January 1879. The number of persons summoned for contravention of the law was 102; of these 78 were convicted before the Police Magistrate, the fines amounting to 24*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* The daily average number of labourers employed was 26, exclusive of three police constables.

50. As may be supposed the Sanitary Inspector met with a great deal of opposition at first, the people appearing neither to understand nor appreciate the necessity for cleanliness, when attended with occasional inconvenience to themselves, but perseverance on the part of the Inspector, aided by the law, has done much to improve the condition of Freetown, and educate the people in sanitation.

(Signed) T. RISELY GRIFFITH,
Colonial Secretary and Treasurer.

GAMBIA.

GAMBIA.

No. 20.

Governor A. E. HAVELOCK, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
August 25, 1881.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley.
&c. &c.

Government House, Bathurst,
August 11, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copies of the Blue Book of the Settlement on the Gambia for the year 1880, and I beg to submit the following remarks, and to furnish the following comparative statements by way of a report thereon.

REVENUE and EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The receipts of the year 1880, exclusive of 12*l.* arrears of previous years, amounted to - -	24,541	0	0

Deducting from this amount the parliamentary grant of 1,200*l.* for postal service the sum of 23,341*l.* remains as the revenue of the year received within the year.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
To this add arrears due at the close of the year - - - - - -	24	0	0

and the sum of 23,365*l.* is shown as the total revenue proper of

the year. This amount has been contributed to in the following proportions by the several sources of revenue viz. :—

	£
Customs - - - -	20,206
Licenses - - - -	1,071
Rents, exclusive of land - -	804
Land revenue - - -	151
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court -	311
Postage - - - -	67
Auction duty - - -	29
Incidental revenue, such as miscellaneous receipts, reimbursements in aid, &c. - - - -	702
Arrears: Ground rents, Combo 20*l.*, + fines and fees 4*l.* - -	24
Total revenue proper of the year -	23,365
The revenue of 1879 (including arrears) was - - - - -	28,481
And as compared with such revenue that of 1880 shows a decrease of -	5,116

The subjoined comparative statement exhibits the difference, by way of increase or decrease, between the sums yielded by the several sources of revenue in 1879 and 1880.

Source of Revenue.	Revenue. 1879.	Revenue. 1880.	Increase in 1880.	Decrease in 1880.	—
Customs :	£	£	£	£	£
Import Duties.					
Wines - - -	1,497	1,464	—	33	—
Spirits - - -	2,503	2,626	123	—	—
Tobacco - - -	3,312	1,470	—	1,842	—
Sugar - - -	619	767	148	—	—
Cola Nuts - - -	2,211	1,721	—	490	—
Guns and Gunpowder -	1,779	1,846	67	—	—
Palm Wine and Bricks -	566	540	—	26	—
Ad-valorem duty - -	2,199	2,083	—	116	—
Export Duty :					
Ground nuts - -	7,630	4,608	—	3,022	—
Hides - - -	256	157	—	99	—
Tonnage, Quarantine, and Pilotage Dues - -	3,351	2,746	—	605	Decrease in customs.
Warehouse Rent - -	151	178	27	—	
Total Customs -	26,074	20,206	365	6,233	5,868
Licenses - - - -	947	1,071	124	—	—
Rent exclusive of land - -	635	804	169	—	—
Land revenue - - -	174	151	—	10	—
Arrears of land revenue at close of year - - -	7	20	—		

Sources of Revenue.	Revenne, 1789.	1880.	Increase in 1880.	Decrease in 1880.	—
	£	£	£	£	£
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of courts - - - -	322	311	—	16	—
Arrears of fines, &c. at close of year - - - -	9	4	—		
Postage - - - -	47	67	20	—	—
Auction duty - - -	7	29	22	—	—
Incidental revenue, such as miscellaneous receipts, reimbursements in aid, &c. - -	259	702	443	—	Total decrease
	28,481	23,365	1,143	6,259	5,116

An analysis of the foregoing comparative statement shows that the principal items of decrease in 1880, as compared with the previous year, occurred in the amount of duties which accrued from the imposts on tobacco, cola nuts, and ground nuts, and from tonnage dues, the total decrease in these duties, &c. amounting to 5,959*l.*

Of this sum the decrease in the duty from ground nuts gives 3,022*l.* Two circumstances combined to produce this wide divergence between the amount of export duty on ground nuts received in 1879, and that obtained in 1880, viz.: the unusually large crop of ground nuts in 1878, and the failure of the crop in 1879. To make this statement intelligible I must explain that by far the larger portion of the crop of each year is exported during the following one, and thus, so far as the revenue is concerned, the effect of the abundance or poverty of a harvest is felt not in the year of its occurrence but in that succeeding it.

Tobacco shows the next largest item of decrease, viz.: 1,842*l.*, This diminution is to be mainly ascribed to the fact that a large quantity of tobacco was imported in 1879, the duty from this article in that year exceeding the average yearly duty for the five preceding years by 1,165*l.* The decrease in the quantity of ground nuts also influenced the import of tobacco.

Cola nuts exhibit a decrease of 490*l.*, which is accounted for by the general contraction of trade consequent on the failure in the ground nut crop of 1879, and by the circumstance that this article in 1879 yielded an excess of revenue of 666*l.* over the average yearly amount contributed by it during the five preceding years.

Tonnage, quarantine, and pilot dues in 1880 fell short of those in the previous year by 605*l.*, tonnage dues alone being answerable for 601*l.* of this decrease. The amount of tonnage dues depends almost altogether on the quantity of ground nuts exported, and this latter, of course, is determined by the magnitude of the crop, so that the yearly fluctuations in the ground nut harvest find a

fairly accurate record in the varying amount of tonnage dues received. The tonnage dues received in 1879 gave a sum of 674*l.* in excess of the average for the five preceding years.

Under the head of customs an increase amounting to 338*l.* took place in the revenue received from the duties on spirits, sugar, guns, and gunpowder. The increase given by spirits was 123*l.*, but, as compared with the average for the five years preceding 1879, an increase of about 800*l.* is exhibited.

Guns and gunpowder show an increase of 67*l.*; and over the average for the years 1874–8 an increase of 813*l.*

The revenue from the sugar duty exhibits an increase of 148*l.*, and over the average for the years 1874–8 an increase of 387*l.*

The quantity of sugar imported into the Settlement has steadily increased year by year from 1876 to 1880, which increase is an altogether satisfactory circumstance. The subjoined statement shows the amount of revenue received from the duty on sugar for the years 1874 to 1880 respectively.

Year.	Amount received from duty on sugar.
	£
1874	459
1875	373
1876	246
1877	292
1878	532
1879	619
1880	767

Licenses contributed 124*l.* more in 1880 than in the previous year, of which excess spirits licenses are to be credited with 107*l.* The increase in the number of grog-shops in Bathurst indicated by this excess is an unmixed evil.

The increase of 169*l.* in "rents exclusive of land" chiefly arose from the letting of a portion of the coal depôt, which building had been rescued from decay by re-roofing and other repairs.

The increase of 443*l.* in "incidental revenue," such as miscellaneous receipts, reimbursements in aid, was principally made up by profit on bills of exchange.

The remaining items of increase are but trifling, and do not call for remark.

The revenue return of 1880 as compared with 1879 stands thus:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Total of items of decrease	6,259	0	0
„ „ increase	1,143	0	0
Difference by way of decrease	5,116	0	0

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
The payments made in 1880, exclusive of payment of arrears of previous years amounted to	19,170	0	0
But in this sum is included 423*l.* on account of the Upper Gambia expedition, and 800*l.* -	1,223	0	0
paid for mail subsidy, which being deducted leave	17,947	0	0
To this add arrears due at close of year -	414	0	0
and the sum of - - - -	18,361	0	0

appears as the total expenditure proper appertaining to the year 1880.

	£	s.	d.
The expenditure of 1879, exclusive of payment of arrears of previous years, and of 400*l.* paid for conveyance of mails, was - - -	19,475	0	0
And consequently the expenditure for the year 1880 was less than that for 1879 by - -	1,114	0	0

In both instances I have eliminated from the account the sums paid for conveyance of mails, as the subsidy of 1,200*l.* a year was provided by a parliamentary grant in aid, which has been, and properly, I think, considered as a receipt (devoted to a fixed specific purpose), and not as revenue; and, similarly, the payments made out of this receipt for the conveyance of mails should be deemed to be a payment merely, and not as expenditure proper.

The sum of 423*l.* paid on account of the Upper Gambia expedition can hardly be looked upon as forming a portion of the expenditure proper of the year, and therefore I have withdrawn it from the account.

On an examination of the "comparative yearly statement of the Colonial expenditure," for the years 1879 and 1880, as drawn up on pages 36 and 37 of the Blue Book, I find that the remarks as to the cause of increase or decrease are sufficiently explanatory, and therefore they do not require to be supplemented in this report.

The financial position of the Settlement at the close of the year 1880 was follows:—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Balance in Colonial chest - - -	8,749	2	8¾
Balance in Crown Agents Hands - -	1,190	16	9
300*l.* in transit from Crown Agents - -	300	0	0
Advances due to Colony - - -	9	18	5
Arrears of ground rents, Combo - -	20	3	0
Arrears of fines and fees - - -	4	5	0
Surplus funds invested - - -	8,866	15	0
Due from Imperial Government grant in aid for postal service April–December, 9 months at 1,200*l.* per annum - - - -	900	0	0
	20,041	0	10¾

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.
Due on account of deposits - - -	811	8	11¼
„ to Sierra Leone Government - -	81	18	8
„ by Crown Agents on account of pension and other services - - - -	293	1	1
Due in the Colony for salaries, &c. - -	39	10	6
„ for postal service - - -	1,000	0	0
	2,225	19	2¼
Excess of assets over liabilities - -	17,815	1	8½

Imports.

	£	s.	d.
The value of the imports of 1880, exclusive of specie, was - - - - -	169,691	0	0
That of the imports of 1879, also exclusive of specie, was - - - - -	161,763	0	0

and therefore an increase of 7,928*l.* is shown in favour of 1880.

	£	s.	d.
The amount of specie imported in 1880 was -	21,889	0	0
That of the specie imported in 1879 was -	28,404	0	0

and consequently there was 6,515*l.* less specie imported in 1880 than in the previous year.

The following table, which I have compiled from the Blue Books for the years referred to, shows the value, and, where it could be ascertained, the quantity of all imports, the value of which amounted to 500*l.* or over, for the years 1874–8 and 1879 and 1880, and also the average for the quinquennial period 1874–8.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT for the Years 1874–80 of Values and Quantities of IMPORTS, the Value of which amounted to 500*l.* or over.

—		1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Ale and porter -	Gallons	13,095	6,942	4,126	7,369
	Value	£1,807	1,313	792	1,257
Amber and coral -	„	£1,112	803	298	202
Anchors and chains	„	£587	496	93	171
Bags, empty -	„	£835	1,242	551	914
Beads - -	„	£547	494	143	234
Bread and biscuits	„	£835	705	647	881
Brick and tiles -	„	£432	687	157	391
Boats - -	No.	5	11	4	3
	Value	£118	313	36	64
Cotton goods -	„	£34,780	41,818	17,015	20,271
Candles - -	„	£653	709	509	693
Canvas - -	„	£508	305	222	159
Cordage - -	„	£725	731	658	377
Cutlasses & swords	„	£437	358	274	374

GAMBIA.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT for the Years 1874–80, &c.—*continued.*

—		1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Cola nuts	Quantity	lbs.555,604	498,520	524,259	431,322
	Value	£19,843	17,804	18,724	15,405
Flour	Barrels	707	753	668	511
	Value	£1,080	969	1,020	753
Furniture	,,	264	295	336	203
Guns and pistols	No.	3,412	4,376	2,829	3,719
	Value	£1,812	2,596	1,662	2,283
Gunpowder	Barrels of 100 lbs.	848	1,232	523	1,058
	Value	£1,888	2,366	851	1,780
Hardware	,,	£1,838	2,044	1,594	1,968
Haberdashery	,,	£3,574	2,044	1,562	2,242
Iron bars	,,	£1,468	1,335	984	858
Leather, manufactured	,,	£692	372	67	351
Lumber and planks	,,	£2,277	1,298	1,021	1,210
Oil, edible	,,	£415	392	420	396
Oil, lamp	,,	£1,007	548	619	899
Paint oil, paint, and turpentine	,,	£623	671	381	426
Provisions	,,	£2,267	2,152	1,162	1,397
Rice	Tons	775	1,840	1,809	723
	Value	£10,944	19,778	10,161	8,968
Soap	,,	£1,155	1,148	825	920
Salt	Tons	717	2,065	283	1,726
	Value	£382	1,126	245	955
Specie	Amount	Not shown	Not shown	Not shown	Not shown
Spirits—					
Absinthe	Quantity	Galls. 1,900	1,571	1,200	1,229
	Value	£411	360	261	282
Brandy	Quantity	Galls. 1,025	758	557	831
	Value	£762	587	306	738
Gin	Quantity	Galls. 5,208	5,815	3,166	3,196
	Valu	£1,042	1,229	662	697
Rum	Quantity	galls. 41,178	39,279	37,479	30,512
	Value	£3,533	3,978	2,939	3,037
Whisky	Quantity	Galls. 35	28	32	22
	Value	£8	10	7	8
Liqueur	Quantity	Galls. 911	441	335	707
	Value	£241	137	96	286
Unnamed	Quantity	Galls. None shown.	Galls. None shown.	Galls. None shown.	Galls. 16
	Value	—	—	—	2
Stationery	,,	£707	461	181	354
Sugar	Quantity	lbs.101,274	87,790	51,699	71,714
	Value	£1,760	1,304	769	1,183
Tobacco	Quantity	lbs.481,156	352,248	359,550	305,406
	Value	£13,050	14,628	13,894	10,845
Wearing apparel	,,	£2,179	1,567	1,824	1,120
Wine	Quantity	galls. 17,031	15,833	12,888	19,375
	Value	£2,728	2,385	1,478	2,401

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT for the Years 1874–80, &c.—*continued.* GAMBIA.

—		1878.	Average for period 1874–8.	1879.	1880.
Ale and porter	Gallons	7,291	7,765	8,961	11,021
	Value	£1,211	1,276	1,533	1,766
Amber and coral	„	£611	605	1,095	1,564
Anchors and chains	„	£213	312	340	678
Bags, empty	„	£2,292	1,167	1,375	1,122
Beads	„	£807	445	683	968
Bread and biscuits	„	£920	798	1,419	1,877
Brick and tiles	„	£572	448	574	531
Boats	No.	10	7	21	24
	Value	£424	191	656	843
Cotton goods	„	£35,375	29,852	42,389	37,797
Candles	„	£755	664	951	986
Canvas	„	£422	323	482	550
Cordage	„	£946	687	882	559
Cutlasses & swords	„	£761	441	842	1,179
Cola nuts	Quantity	lbs.634,749	528,851	742,955	578,365
	Value	£22,670	18,889	26,532	27,390
Flour	Barrels	590	646	530	592
	Value	£928	950	789	891
Furniture	„	£223	264	329	589
Guns and pistols	No.	10,371	4,941	6,987	6,486
	Value	£6,513	2,973	4,712	3,772
Gunpowder	Barrels of 100 lbs.	1,030	938	1,256	606
	Value	£3,257	2,028	2,204	967
Hardware	„	£2,705	2,029	3,759	2,754
Haberdashery	„	£2,989	2,482	3,254	4,800
Iron bars	„	£812	1,091	521	734
Leather, manufactured	„	£512	399	703	557
Lumber and planks	„	£1,364	1,434	3,327	1,698
Oil, edible	„	£50	335	955	1,628
Oil, lamp	„	£787	772	791	329
Paint oil, paint, and turpentine	„	£559	532	874	883
Provisions	„	£1,911	1,778	2,199	2,808
Rice	Tons	1,242	1,278	1,898	2,207
	Value	£15,312	13,033	19,780	24,960
Soap	„	£1,141	1,038	1,345	1,208
Salt	Tons	2,015	1,361	1,189	1,444
	Value	£1,136	769	672	734
Specie	Amount	£17,540	—	28,404	21,889
Spirits—					
Absinthe	Quantity	Galls. 2,012	1,582	4,107	10,449
	Value	£590	381	986	1,715
Brandy	Quantity	Galls. 672	769	1,370	762
	Value	£539	586	952	847
Gin	Quantity	Galls. 6,479	4,773	6,609	3,638
	Value	£1,189	964	1,060	547
Rum	Quantity	galls. 65,304	42,750	48,509	38,759
	Value	£6,447	3,987	3,866	10,131
hisky	Quantity	Galls. 50	33	58	117
	Value	£7	8	19	31
Liqueur	Quantity	Galls. 904	659	1,388	1,589
	Value	£286	209	500	523
Unnamed	Quantity	Galls. 92	54	209	40
	Value	£20	11	36	56
Stationery	„	£423	425	854	702

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT for the Years 1874–80, &c.—*continued.*

		1878.	Average for period 1874–8.	1879.	1880.
Sugar -	Quantity	lbs. 120,130	86,521	159,974	182,117
	Value	£1,895	1,382	2,290	2,881
Tobacco -	Quantity	lbs. 364,343	376,494	381,174	322,297
	Value	£11,558	12,795	10,289	9,578
Wearing apparel -	„	£1,751	1,688	2,462	1,812
Wine -	Quantity	galls.23,406	17,907	28,062	27,613
	Value	£2,535	2,305	3,642	3,790

I have drawn up the foregoing statement with a view of furnishing a ready means of comparison as regards imports between the years included in the table, and I regret that time did not permit me to extend it so as to embrace a greater number of years.

Exports.

	£
The value of the total exports from the Colony in 1880 amounted to - - -	138,983
That of the exports in 1879 was - -	207,364
Showing a decrease in 1880 of - - -	68,381

This sum of 68,381*l.*, however, is not a statement of the decrease in 1880 as compared with 1879 of the true exports from the Gambia, nor, indeed, can the correct amount be easily ascertained from the Blue Books.

In order to show this amount I have compiled the following comparative table from the Blue Books for 1879 and 1880.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT for the years 1879 and 1880 of Exports proper from the Gambia.

Articles.	1879.	1880.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£		
Corn - - -	67	2		
Cotton - - Value	37	53		
Ground nuts - -	183,120	110,594		
Hides - - -	6,134	3,760		
Ivory - - -	31	62		
Pagns (country) -	600	467		
Palm oil - -	13	55		
Wax - - -	4,891	4,431		
Palm kernels - -	229	1,688		
Total - -	195,122	121,112		
	121,112			
Decrease in 1880 -	74,010			

The decrease, therefore, in the true exports from the Gambia in 1880 as compared with the previous year amounted to 74,010*l.*, and of this decrease ground nuts are answerable for 72,526*l.*

The following is a comparative statement of the values and quantities of the principal articles exported in the years 1874–80, and also shows the average for the period 1874–8.

Article.		1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.
Cotton	Value	£128	62	97	325
Ground nuts	Quantity	Tons 19,753	19,019	9,986	15,939
	Value	£167,906	133,134	69,903	111,573
Hides	No.	20,154	15,272	18,609	17,953
	Value	£4,031	3,054	3,720	3,591
Ivory	Quantity	lbs. 518	200	324	2,971
	Value	£52	20	26	371
Pagns (country)	Value	None shown	£218	499	658
Palm kernels	Quantity	Tons 1⅓	4⅗	51	104
	Value	£31	37	508	968
Wax	Quantity	Tons 45	40	60	47
	Value	£5,482	4,820	7,259	5,681

(*Continued.*)

Article.		1878.	Average for the period 1874–8.	1879.	1880.
Cotton	Value	£117	146	37	53
Ground nuts	Quantity	Tons 23,996	17,739	22,890	13,824
	Value	£191,970	134,897	183,120	110,594
Hides	No.	15,380	17,472	30,668	18,798
	Value	£3,076	3,494	6,134	3,760
Ivory	Quantity	lbs. 400	883	208	493
	Value	£40	102	31	62
Pagns (country)	Value	£259	408	600	467
Palm kernels	Quantity	Tons 87	50	41	229
	Value	£822	473	382	2,134
Wax	Quantity	Tons 42	47	41	39
	Value	£5,040	5,656	4,891	4,431

It will be seen from the foregoing comparative table of exports that in 1880 a smaller quantity of the three principal productions of the Gambia, viz., ground nuts, hides, and wax, was exported than in 1879, but that a larger quantity of palm kernels was exported than in any of the six years preceding 1880.

I have already explained that the decrease in the export of ground nuts in 1880 was caused by the short and bad quality crop of 1879.

Although the quantity of hides exported in 1880 was less than in the previous year, yet it was above the average for the period 1874–8.

The quantity of wax exported from the Gambia has been decreasing for several years, which is, I think, attributable to the fact that the natives have been gradually turning their attention more and more to the cultivation of ground nuts.

Shipping.

——	Number.	Tons.	——
Entered during year:—			
Sailing vessels - - -	138	15,252	With cargoes.
Steam vessels - - -	58	60,300	With cargoes.
Sailing vessels - - -	43	3,708	In ballast.
Steamvessels - - -	4	643	In ballast.
Total entered -	243	79,903	
Cleared during year:—			
Sailing vessels - - -	143	18,320	With cargoes.
Steam vessels - - -	60	60,898	With cargoes.
Sailing vessels - - -	46	1,330	In ballast.
Steam vessels - - -	2	45	In ballast.
Total cleared -	251	80,593	

Public Debt.

The Settlement has no public debt, its liabilities in that respect having been cleared off in January 1880.

Militia.

A small militia force exists in the Settlement composed of the Combo Militia and the McCarthy's Island Militia. Neither of these corps were called out for training during 1880.

Public Works.

No works of any magnitude were undertaken during the year, but considerable repairs to public buildings and bridges, both at Bathurst and at out-stations, were carried out.

The construction of the bridge over the oyster creek was suspended in consequence of a change in the bed of the river, and of another site for the bridge having been suggested by the Colonial Surveyor of Sierra Leone.

Legislation.

Eight Ordinances were passed during the year.

No. 1 was the Supply Ordinance for the year 1880.

No. 2 demonetised the Spanish, Mexican, and South American dollar.

No. 3 was a Supplementary Supply Ordinance for the years 1877 and 1878.

No. 4 repealed existing Ordinances regulating the sale of spirituous and other liquors in the Settlement, and made other provisons in lieu thereof.

No. 5 repealed an Ordinance of 28th March 1844, and the "Registration Ordinance, 1879," and made provision for the registering of deeds, conveyances, wills, &c.

No. 6. was a "Sailors Discipline Ordinance."

No. 7 was a Supplementary Supply Ordinance for 1879.

No. 8. was the Supply Ordinance for the year 1881.

Savings Banks, Friendly Societies, &c.

Since my first arrival in the Settlement the establishment of a savings bank has been an alluring object to me; but, unfortunately, the machinery for the carrying out of such an undertaking has eluded my quest, and I have been compelled, if not to abandon, at least to relegate to the region of the future, a project which promises moral and material advancement to the natives of the Settlement, and, if the advantages were extended to and accepted by them, also to the surrounding tribes; and with regard to these latter, the possession by us of a powerful influence over them, and a strong bond between them and the Settlement.

Whether the experiment would result in success or end in failure is a question that could only be determined by a trial; but, should it fail, there would remain the conviction that duty was done and responsibility was discharged, and that the fault of failure was not to be laid at our doors. At present at Bathurst the surplus of a labourer's or artizan's earnings is generally expended in the grog shop, and those who have a natural desire to save are discouraged from so doing by the want of a secure place wherein to deposit their savings.

Friendly Societies.

There are a few friendly societies in Bathurst, the chief objects of which appear to be the provision in case of the death of a member of funds for burial expenses, and the interment of the defunct with some parade and pomp.

There is neither emigration from nor immigration into the Settlement, that is, none that is appreciable.

It would, I think, be a great advantage to the Colony if a few hundred Chinese were to arrive here as immigrants, and especially if a fair proportion of them were of the artizan class. The artizans of the Settlement are idle, lazy, and careless, and are so independent that they will only work how and when they choose; and the same may be said of the male labourers, predial and otherwise.

Were it not for the Jolah women the merchants of Bathurst would find it difficult to load or unload their cutters and ships, and could only do so at a large and quickly increasing expense.

Ecclesiastical.

There are three Christian denominations in Bathurst, viz., Episcopalian, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic. Each of these sects has a church at Bathurst and one or more ministers, and the Roman Catholics have, in addition, a convent, whose sisters of mercy do much good among the sick, and in teaching in the convent school, where cutting out and sewing and other useful work are taught, as well as the usual subjects of education.

The Wesleyans have a small chapel at Barra, and a few small chapels in British Combo.

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The Episcopalian Church is maintained almost altogether by Colonial funds, but neither of the other two churches receive any State aid except in respect of their schools.

Besides Christian congregations there is also at Bathurst a large number of the followers of Mohammed, and in the virtues of sobriety and consistency they set no mean example to those who profess the purer and fairer faith of the Gospel.

The number of Mohammedans in Bathurst exceeds that of the members of any one of the Christian denominations, and in the Settlement as a whole the Mohammedans outnumber the Christians by about a third.

Of the three Christian denominations existing in the Settlement the Wesleyans have the largest number of members, and the largest congregations at their chapels.

The following is an approximative statement of the strength of the congregations attending the several churches in the Settlement.

Episcopalian - - - -	200
Wesleyan - - - -	1,405
Roman Catholic - - - -	500

Education.

The total number of schools in the Settlement during the year 1880 was nine, viz., one belonging to the Church of England, six to the Wesleyans, and two to the Roman Catholics. These schools are located as follows:—One Church of England, one Wesleyan, and two Roman Catholic at Bathurst, one Wesleyan at Barra, three Wesleyan in British Combo, viz., one at Cape St. Mary, one at Baccowkonko, and one at Sabbajee, and one Wesleyan at McCarthy's Island.

The total number of school children in 1879 was 764, whereas in 1880 the number fell to 738, which shows a reduction of 26 in the latter year.

The following comparative table exhibits the number of scholars attending the schools in the Settlement during the years 1879 and 1880 respectively.

	1879.				1880.			
	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.			No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Established Church, Bathurst.	1	47	51	98	1	49	28	77
Wesleyan, Bathurst -	2	183	128	311	1	158	124	282
Roman Catholic, Bathurst	2	110	112	222	2	100	130	230
Wesleyan, Barra - -	1	17	17	34	1	22	10	32
„ Cape St. Mary -	1	10	6	16	1	8	5	13
„ Baccowkonko -	1	20	15	35	1	10	8	18
„ Sabbajee -	—	—	—	—	1	9	14	23
„ McCarthy's Island.	1	33	15	48	1	42	21	63
Total -	9	420	344	764	9	398	340	738

With the exception of the instruction in needlework given to the girls in the Roman Catholic Mission School, nothing in the way of useful art or handicraft is taught in any of the schools in the Settlement.

A grant of 100*l.* a year in aid of education is made by the Government to each of the three Christian denominations, and in addition an annual sum of 57*l.* 12*s.* is voted each year to pay the salaries of the schoolmasters of the Church of England and Wesleyan schools at Cape St. Mary. Owing to the dismissal of the Church of England schoolmaster, and to the difficulty of obtaining a suitable person to fill the vacancy, the school was in abeyance during the greater part of 1880.

The native children are apt at learning, and what they receive at the various schools is, I fear, more after the manner of learning than education. The native has a very retentive memory, and he easily acquires what may be called rote-knowledge; but the higher faculty of ratiocination is not so conspicuous in him, and I think more might be done in the way of attempting to develop whatever of the faculty he possesses.

Agriculture.

The cultivation of ground nuts is the great husbandry work of the country. It is light work, and consequently, after the manner of the people, it has been appropriated by the men, who gallantly leave the heavier and more laborious work of rice and corn planting to the women. The ground nut is a rather uncertain crop, and its value in the market is on the decline, but the natives of the Gambia seem so wedded to its cultivation that they cannot be induced to try anything else as an alternative crop, and they neglect other sources of wealth or profit, being seemingly satisfied with the fluctuating return made to them by their favourite article of culture and trade.

Ground nuts are planted in June and July and are gathered in November and December.

A considerable quantity each year is what is called self-planted, that is, the produce of the nuts that escaped being gathered and so remained in the ground. In years of blight or bad crops these self-planted nuts are generally good, nature having made no mistake as to the time and mode of planting.

The natives of the Gambia do not grow a sufficient food supply for themselves, and large quantities of rice are annually imported.

The agriculture of the country is of a very rude and primitive description, and none of the means known to civilisation for increasing or maintaining the fertility of the soil are made use of by the native husbandmen.

Manufactures, Mines, Fisheries, &c.

Manufactures there are next to none, for the only one is that of spinning cotton and then weaving it into strips of cloth five inches wide and a few yards long, called bandy cloths, which,

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when sewn together are called pagns. These pagns are thick and course but are very durable, and are much made use of by the natives for night clothing and by the women for apparel. Bandy cloths are much used as a medium of barter and exchange, to which operation they readily lend themselves. The women do the spinning, and all by hand, by means of a spindle which they rotate between their fingers. The weaving is done by men, and as it is a sedentary employment and does not require the exercise of greater strength than that of a mere child it suits the male native admirably.

Mines.—There are no mines, or at any rate none that are known, in the Gambia district.

Fisheries.—A good deal of fish is caught in the river at and near Bathurst, and fresh fish can be had in the market every day. There is, however, no fishery on a large scale and no deep sea fishing whatever.

Gaols and Prisoners.

There is a gaol at Bathurst, which prison is the gaol of the Settlement. Minor prisons exist at Cape St. Mary, British Combo, and at McCarthy's Island, but at these there is no prison staff, the necessary duty of supervision and restraint being discharged by police constables.

The "mixed system" is that which prevails in the prisons of the Settlement, although the "separate system" would have a greater deterrent and punitive effect. It would not, however, be practicable to carry out the latter system in this Colony.

The discipline in the gaol is almost entirely deterrent, the principal agencies in operation to produce such effect being seclusion, limited diet, compulsory abstinence as regards smoking and drinking, &c., observance of strict rules and regulations, and enforced labour both penal and industrial.

The only reformatory discipline is that embodied in the teachings and exhortations of the Colonial chaplain who periodically visits and holds services in the prison.

The gaol at Bathurst is not built on the most approved principles of prison construction, but for the native criminal who, as a rule, loves not ventilation and pure air, it is not very inappropriate.

The industrial labour performed by the prisoners consists of cleaning streets and drains, breaking stones, and mending roads, conveyance of stores and materials and attending to the conservancy of the gaol, barracks, and hospital, which conservancy is that of the dry earth system.

The following table is a comparative statement for the years 1874–80, showing the number committed to penal imprisonment, during each year, the daily average number of prisoners, the

number of deaths, and the per-centage of deaths of the daily average number in prison.

—	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Committed to penal imprisonment - - -	170	174	126	144	124	112	110
Daily average number of prisoners - - -	40	37	28	33	38	38	44
Number of deaths - -	6	3	10	7	4	2	4
Per-centage of deaths of daily average number of prisoners	15	8·1	35·7	21·2	10·5	5·26	9·1

Criminal Statistics.

The number of convictions, summary and in the superior courts, during the year 1880 was 255. The number of convictions for 1879 was 207, and therefore there was an increase in 1880 of 48 convictions.

The subjoined comparative table shows the number of convictions for the years 1874–8, the average for that period, and the number for 1879 and 1880.

—	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average for period 1874–8.	1879.	1880.
Number of convictions:								
Summary - -	318	302	248	242	236	269	176	229
In superior courts -	41	10	24	21	24	24	31	26
Total -	359	312	272	263	260	293	207	255

General Remarks.

The blight in the ground nut crop of 1879 very seriously affected the trade of 1880, and proved very prejudicial to the general interests of the Settlement.

The rivalry between the two parties into which the people of Baddiboo have divided themselves continued as active and bitter during 1880 as it was during the three preceding years, and no approach towards an amicable understanding was made, although this Government endeavoured to bring about peace by means of mediation and advice.

The war in Baddiboo although arising out of the dispute between chief Mahmod [n]Dary Bah and Beram Ceesay, has not been continuous in so far as warlike operations are concerned, but every now and then a raid by one side is made on a village

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or town belonging to the other, and in this intermittent manner the fighting goes on.

These native wars are not very sanguinary, that is, very few are killed in the actual fight, but should a town be taken, the rule is to put to death all the male prisoners over 14 or 15 years of age, the women and children being taken as slaves. A country which is the theatre and victim of such tedious and undecisive wars suffers much from the absence of reasonable certainty and security, and neither its agriculture nor its trade can flourish in such an unstable state of affairs.

The health of the Settlement was good during the greater portion of 1880, but towards the close of the year small-pox broke out in an epidemic form, and caused several deaths among the poorer classes of Bathurst.

Almost coincidently with the outbreak of small-pox at Bathurst yellow fever made its appearance at St. Louis, Senegal, but although there were several fatal cases amongst the Europeans the disease was fortunately of short duration and died out before the end of the year.

Two Europeans died at Bathurst during 1880, but neither of these deaths was attributable to climatic causes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) V. SKIPTON GOULDSBURY,
Administrator.

His Excellency
The Governor-in-Chief,
Sierra Leone.

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No. 21.

Governor the LORD NAPIER OF MAGDALA, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Gibraltar, 4 January 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1879, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary.

Revenue.

The total revenue for 1879 amounted to 47,390*l.* 13*s.*, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
General receipts from various sources of revenue - - - -	43,072	2	4
Proceeds of the sale of bills drawn on the Crown Agents - - -	3,014	4	4
Salaries left undrawn by Colonial officers for remittance to England - -	1,304	6	4
Total credits for the year -	47,390	13	0

Expenditure.

The payments during the year comprised the following gross totals:—

	£	s.	d.
Disbursements for salaries, fixed and provisional, works, buildings, and other services authorised - -	44,671	14	6
Remittances to the Crown Agents through Army Pay Department -	2,600	0	0
Total debits for the year -	47,271	14	6

The gross expenditure in 1879 was 47,271*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, against 43,405*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* in 1878, the increase being accounted for by the larger expenditure on new public works.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets and liabilities of the Colony at the end of the year 1879 was as follows :—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Cash balance in Colonial chest -	451	9	1
Cash balance with the Crown Agents -	47	9	9
Surplus funds invested - -	26,513	10	10
Interest due on investments - -	1,024	11	6
Outstanding ground and house rent -	3,445	5	6
	31,482	6	8

Liabilities, Nil.

Public Works.

The public works for the year 1879, undertaken at the expense of the Colonial Government, may be summarized as follows :—

The public markets and the new wing at the convent have been finished and taken into use.

The new slaughter-houses and quarters at the north front have been built and completed and taken into practical use and occupation.

Considerable repairs and improvements have been effected at the convent and at the governor's cottage.

At the civil hospital the surgeon's new quarter has been finished, and one of the new pavilions, No. 1, has been let on contract, and the walls carried up to the first floor level.

At the north front the first portion of the raised promenade along the eastern beach has been completed, and two blocks of police quarters and passport office have been advanced nearly to completion.

In the Alameda gardens an ornamental gateway has been erected, and other minor improvements commenced, with the assistance of the newly appointed Italian head gardener.

The total expenditure during the year 1879 on the various classes of public works, including up keep, repair and improvements of buildings, roads, walls, and water supply to public offices and gardens, amounted to 12,079*l.*

Civil Establishment.

The following appointments and changes in offices were made during the year :—

Mr. George Phillippo to be Chief Justice and Judge of the Court of Requests in the room of Sir William Doyle, deceased.

The Reverend Melville Moore to be Civil Chaplain in place of the Reverend George Willan, exchanged.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, Royal Engineers, to be Inspector of Colonial schools.

Legislation.

During the year 1879 the following important Orders in Council were promulgated:—

1st. An Order in Council to make further provision for the regulation of the Port of Gibraltar.

2nd. An Order in Council amending the Sanitary Order in Council, Gibraltar 1865, and transferring certain reserved military roads and ways to the Sanitary Commissioners.

Population.

By the census taken in 1878 the resident civil population of the city and territory of Gibraltar, consisting of British subjects and aliens on temporary permits, amounted to 18,014 souls.

The total number of deaths in the population during the year was 431, and the rate of mortality for the year was 23·92 per 1,000.

The military population in 1879 was about 5,948, and the rate of mortality for the year was 15·46 per 1,000.

Education.

During the past year the Hebrew Poor School recently re-established was added to the schools supported by the Government, now 12 in number.

The Government grant in aid of the Elementary Schools has been raised to a sum equal to the amount of local voluntary subscriptions and school pence collected in each school.

The expenditure from Colonial Funds in aid of education in 1879 amounted to 1,033*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The total number of scholars shown in the returns was 1,811.

The progress in elementary education may be considered to have been satisfactory, and much good may be anticipated by the appointment of an Inspector of Schools with a view to the early establishment of an improved system of education in this Colony.

Criminal Statistics

The return of the criminal statistics for the year 1879 contain nothing calling for special remarks.

No serious crime has been committed during the year. The number of summary convictions before the Police Magistrate was 761, or 33 less than in 1878, and before the Captain of the Port 33, or 10 less than in 1878.

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The total number of convictions being 794, or 43 less as compared with 1878, the great majority being for minor offences.

Nine cases were tried in the Supreme Court, four for offences against the person, and five for offences against property.

Judgment for the Crown was obtained in all cases but one.

Shipping.

The following table shows the grand totals of arrivals at and clearances from this port from the 1st January to the 31st December 1879.

Arrivals of	No.	Tons.	Crews.
Sailing Vessels - - - -	1,637	260,416	12,005
Steam Vessels - - - -	3,948	2,711,401	97,079
Totals - - - - -	5,585	2,971,817	109,084

Clearances of	No.	Tons.	Crews.
Sailing Vessels - - - -	1,573	252,065	11,298
Steam Vessels - - - -	3,943	2,706,815	97,221
Totals - - -	5,516	2,958,880	108,519

This is the largest shipping return that has been furnished by the Port Department, and comparing it with that for 1878, it shows an increase of 603 steamers and 354,056 tons, and also an increase of 82 sailing vessels and 47,902 tons.

There has been a corresponding increase of 2,210*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* in the revenue received in the Port Department in 1879, which amounted to 14,105*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) NAPIER OF MAGDALA,
General and Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Colony of Gibraltar on the 31st December 1879. GIBRALTAR.

Assets.

Description of Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Amount of money invested in Colonial Securities - - -	26,513 10 10
Cash in the hands of the Treasurer and Collector of Her Majesty's revenues on 31st December 1879 - - -	451 9 1
Outstanding rent of Crown Lands on 31st December 1879 -	3,445 5 8
Balance in hands of Crown Agents on 31st December 1879 -	47 9 9
	30,457 15 4

Liabilities embracing all claims except those of current expenses.

Nil.

The COLONIAL ENGINEER to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Report on the state of repair of the Convent or Government House.

Gibraltar, January 15, 1880.

The Convent or Government House is generally in good repair.

The old tile-roofs of the main building will shortly require to be renewed at considerable cost, the rafters, wood boarding to gutters and eaves gutters being much perished from age.

There is considerable annual expenditure still necessary to maintain the fabric.

(Signed) S. BUCKLE,
Colonial Engineer.

The COLONIAL ENGINEER to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Reports on the Civil Prison and Lunatic Asylum.

Report on the Gibraltar Civil Prison.

Gibraltar, February 5, 1880.

The Civil Prison,—it may be extended upon the present site,—its accommodation is given in the margin of the sketch,* and none of these cells are underground.

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* Not printed.

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Gibraltar Lunatic Asylum.

The present buildings cannot be advantageously extended on the present site. Some relief will be given to the present overcrowded institution by the works I have recommended to be executed, and by temporarily adding an adjacent house, but I desire to record my opinion that the necessity for a new asylum is as urgent as ever, and that the present institution is wanting in all the essentials of a creditable asylum for the reception and treatment of the insane.

I beg to record my opinion that the Asylum buildings and patients are marvellously well kept and cleansed, considering the imperfect nature of the buildings and appliances.

The nominal accommodation of the present Asylum is given upon the sketch,* as—

11 male patients.
5 female patients.

The cells are not underground.

(Signed) S BUCKLE,
Colonial Engineer.

The COLONIAL ENGINEER to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Report on the state of the Public Furniture at the Convent or Government House.

Gibraltar, January 15, 1880.

The public furniture at the Convent or Government House is generally in a satisfactory condition.

The furniture, however, requires to be increased to the extent represented by the report of the recent Committee of Survey.

The furniture is provided in conformity with the Colonial Regulations and the instructions of the Secretary of State.

(Signed) S. BUCKLE,
Colonial Engineer.

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* Not printed.

MALTA.

No. 22.

Governor Sir A. BORTON, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, May 28, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1880, to which I append, for your information, a few remarks by Sir Victor Houlton, the Chief Secretary to the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BORTON,
Governor

The Right Hon.
TheEarl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
May 20, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the annual Blue Book for the year 1880, appending a few remarks for your Excellency's information.

Legislation.

The following 10 Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government, and promulgated during the year 1880 :—

1. "To amend the laws relating to judicial evidence and to certain warrants."
2. "To amend the Police laws."
3. "To amend the Criminal laws."
4. "To amend the laws relating to the extradition of indivi- "duals accused of, or sentenced for, offences committed "in foreign countries."
5. "To amend the laws concerning certain public offices and "the organization of Police."
6. "To amend the laws relating to the Registries and the "Officers of the Courts of Justice."
7. "To amend the laws relating to the Syndics of the country "districts of Malta, to the Superior Courts, and to the "Public Registry, and to make certain amendments in "the laws of Organization and Civil Procedure."
8. "For applying a sum not exceeding 33,519*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* to the "service of the year 1879 ;"

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9. "For applying a sum not exceeding 119,521*l.* 3*s.* to the "service of the year 1881."
10. "To amend Ordinance No. 1 of 1861, intituled 'To "'amend the law relating to the election of the Elec- "'tive Members of the Council of Government of "'Malta.'"

Civil Establishments.

During the year 1880, many important changes have been made in the Government Departments, chiefly in accordance with the suggestions contained in Sir Penrose Julyan's report on the working of the Civil Establishments of this Island.

The offices of Collector of Land Revenue, Cashier of the Treasury, Registrar of Hypothecations, have been abolished, and the powers and duties belonging to the former two offices have been transferred to the officers styled Receiver General, Superintendent of Public Works and Auditor General and Director of Contracts; and the powers and duties appertaining to the Registrar of Hypothecation have been transferred to an officer now called Director of the Public Registry.

The new situation of Receiver General has been conferred on Mr. Adolfo Sciortino, and that of Superintendent of Public Works on Mr. Emmanuele L. Galizia, Architect.

The office of Director of Contracts has been united to that of the Auditor General, under the charge of Mr. F. P. Hoare.

Sir Antonio Micallef, G.C.M.G., President of H.M. Court of Appeal, having resigned his seat in the Bench, which he occupied for the period of 38 years, Sir Adrian Dingli, G.C.M.G., C.B., Crown Advocate, has been selected to succeed that learned gentleman, with the altered designation of Chief Justice of Malta and President of H.M's. Court of Appeal, and Mr. Guiseppe Carbone, L.L.D., has been appointed Crown Advocate, in consequence of Sir Adrian Dingli's promotion to the Bench.

Mr. Raffaele Bonello, Superintendent of Police, having also retired on a pension, Colonel Attilio Sceberras has been appointed in his stead.

The vacant situation of Comptroller of Charitable Institutions has been conferred on Mr. Guiseppe Monreal, who had been since October 1878, discharging the duties of that situation.

Mr. Guiseppe Xuereb has been appointed Registrar of the Superior Courts, under the new organization, which came into operation on the 2nd November 1880.

One of the posts of Magistrates of Judicial Police for Malta has been abolished, and the number of the syndics of the country districts has been since the 1st December last reduced from seven to four, without however disturbing the present arrangement as to the number of the districts and the courts therein established.

Another most important change has been introduced in the Civil Establishments.

The clerical staff of the Government has been classified in accordance with the recommendation of Sir Penrose Julyan into five categories, viz.:—

First class clerks with a salary of 190*l.* rising to 250*l.* by annual increment of 10*l.*

Second class clerks with a salary of 130*l.* rising to 180*l.* by annual increment of 5*l.*

Third class clerks with a salary of 90*l.* rising to 120*l.* by annual increment of 5*l.*

Fourth class clerks with a salary of 60*l.* rising to 80*l.* by annual increment of 4*l.*

Probational clerks with a salary of 50*l.*

Finance.

1. The gross Revenue for 1880 was:—	£	*s.*	*d.*
Local - - - -	181,370	11	1¼
Crown Agents for the Colonies in London -	9,290	12	1
	190,661	3	2¼

2. The average Revenue for the five years preceding 1880, after deducting all exceptional items, was - - -	£	*s.*	*d.*
	176,671	4	5
Deducting from the gross Revenue of 1880 the products of land sales (which are for investments in Consols) - -	379	10	3
And sale of Government property - -	811	1	0¼
	1,190	11	3¼

the Revenue of 1880 will be 189,470*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, or 9,799*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* above the average Revenue of the five preceding years, and 5,675*l.* 15*s.* 9½*d.* above that of 1879.

The principal differences in the receipts of 1880 as compared with those of 1879 are as follows:—

Increase.

Customs, 622*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, attributable to larger quantities released for local consumption of wheat, barley, and bullocks, as well as to larger collections under store rent and tonnage dues:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Land Revenue - - - -	1,597	12	4
Rents exclusive of land - - -	1,534	0	2
	3,131	12	6

attributable to collection of arrears during 1880.

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Interest, 1,800*l.* 9*s.* 8¾*d.*, chiefly attributable to dividends on investments in 3 per cent. consols.

3. The provision for meeting the demands of 1880 was:—

Estimated Expenditure.

—	General Estimates.			Supplementary Estimates.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Establishments - -	76,826	15	3	8,517	15	5	85,344	10	8
Exclusive of establishments - - -	85,556	0	0	29,120	19	1¾	114,676	19	1¾
	162,382	15	3	37,638	14	6¾	200,021	9	9¾

Actual Expenditure.

—	General Estimates.			Supplementary Estimates.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Establishments - -	67,950	19	3	8,063	7	4	76,014	6	7
Exclusive of establishments - - -	74,623	9	3¾	18,680	1	8¾	93,303	11	0½
	142,574	8	6¾	26,743	9	0¾	169,317	17	7½

The amount expended during 1880 under the head of Works and Buildings was 11,988*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, and under that of Roads, Streets, and Bridges 17,977*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.*

The amount expended under Charitable Institutions during 1880 was as follows:

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Fixed salaries - -	5,642	15	9			
Provisional salaries - -	710	0	6			
Allowances - - -	117	0	0			
Office contingencies - -	28	5	4			
				6,498	1	7
Charitable allowances - - -				3,879	0	6
Hospitals - - - - -				17,216	18	3
Works in Charitable Institutions - -				480	0	8
				28,074	1	0

nearly one seventh of the entire Revenue of 1880.

The general financial statement of Malta may be summarily stated as follows:—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Cash in local treasury on 31st December 1880, and cash with Crown Agents for the Colonies	32,873	7	9¾
Advances	18,690	19	9¾
Stock in Consols, calculated at 92 per cent. (say)	274,794	8	0
Remittance	900	0	0
	327,258	15	7½

Debits.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Liabilities on deposit account	251,243	16	2¾			
Liabilities on Scotch Church account	1,097	0	0			
Proceeds of land sales in Consols	34,444	8	9			
Balance of land sales and sales of Government property	1,226	11	8			
				288,011	16	7¾
Credit balance on assets				39,246	18	11¾

Military Expenditure.

The total Military Expenditure incurred by Great Britain in the year 1880 amounts to 292,570*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, of which 5,000*l.* were contributed, as usual, by the Colony.

Pensions.

The total amount of Pensions on the 31st December 1880 rose to 12,500*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, of which 3,252*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, the aggregate sum of 37 pensions, were granted during 1880.

The total amount of Pensions which ceased during 1880 was 536*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*

Population.

The Population of these Islands on the 31st December was reported to be as follows :—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.	—
Malta	67,818	67,824	135,642	Not including the Queen's troops and their families.
Gozo	9,595	9,655	19,250	
	77,413	77,479	154,892	

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showing an increase of 694 on the Population as returned on 31st December 1879.

The Population to the square mile is now as follows:—

Malta	-	1,510	not including the Queen's troops and their families.
Gozo	-	962	

The number of births was 5,232; marriages, 1,075; and deaths, 4,538.

Imports and Exports.

The Customs statistics for 1880 give the following results affecting only the articles liable to Import duties:—

Imports.

	£		£	
Value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	840,425	against	794,565	in 1879.
And value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same bottoms -	10,618,594	„	18,695,066	„
	11,459,019	„	19,489,631	„
viz.:—				
From the United Kingdom - - -	105,497	„	97,042	„
From the British Colonies - -	331,941	„	1,590	„
From H.M. Ships in port - - -	472	„	1,360	„
From Foreign Countries	11,021,109	„	19,389,639	„
	11,459,019		19,489,631	„

Exports.

	£		£	
Value of Exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed at this port -	106,942	against	216,050	in 1879.
And value of Exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottom -	10,596,979	„	16,724 817	„
	10,703,921	„	16,940,867	„

Exports—continued.

viz. :—

To the United Kingdom	3,759,333 against	5,257,363 in 1879.	
To the British Colonies	1,269,577 „	1,768,949 „	
To H.M. Ships -	6,134 „	6,797 „	
To Foreign Countries -	5,668,877 „	9,907,758 „	
	10,703,921	16,940,867	

The total of the Import duty levied on articles introduced for local consumption in 1880 amounted to 110,000*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

Shipping.

The shipping movement in the ports during the last three years is shown in the following tables :—

1.—*Vessels Inwards.* (*Each Arrival reckoned.*)

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1878 - -	3,374	3,001,096	2,002	252,562
1879 - -	3,014	2,807,593	1,868	215,915
1880 - -	3,111	2,927,641	1,669	147,307

2.—*Vessels Outwards.* (*Each Departure reckoned.*)

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1878 - -	3,370	2,998,744	2,004	251,457
1879 - -	3,015	2,809,357	1,850	212,758
1880 - -	3,098	2,918,624	1,699	153,662

Education.

The control and direction of the University, Lyceums, and Primary Schools has been, in accordance with the suggestions contained in Mr. Keenan's Report, entrusted to one responsible officer styled Director of Education, and Mr. Sigismondo Savona has been selected to fill up that post.

The number of students during the year 1880, was as follows:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
University - - -	183	—	183
Lyceum of Valletta - -	518	—	518
Lyceum of Three Cities -	28	—	28
Primary schools - -	3,599	4,281	7,880
Secondary schools - -	21	85	106
Infant schools - - -	438	442	880
Total - -	4,787	4,808	9,595

In August 1880, 33 students were graduated in the University, viz.:—

6 in Theology.
15 in Law.
12 in Medicine and Surgery,

The amount expended for the Educational Department in 1880, was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
University and Lyceums - -	4,716	13	4
Primary and Secondary Schools -	6,220	19	10
Total - - -	10,937	13	2

Hospitals.

The Hospital return for the year 1880 supplies the following information:—

CENTRAL CIVIL HOSPITAL.

—	Remaining in Hospital at the beginning of 1880.	Admitted during the Year 1880.	Daily average in Hospital during the Year 1880.	Discharged.	Died.
Males - -	92	1,219	81	1,115	145
Females -	95	715	84	639	89

SANTO SPIRITO HOSPITAL.

—	Remaining in Hospital at the beginning of 1880.	Admitted during the Year 1880.	Daily average in Hospital during the Year 1880.	Discharged.	Died.
Males - -	31	288	29	251	40
Females -	14	189	17	148	24

HOSPITAL AT GOZO.

Males - -	5	132	7	105	25
Females -	9	203	13	152	49

The following statement shows the number of persons relieved or maintained in the Charitable Institutions hereunder mentioned during the year 1880:—

Institutions.	Number of Persons relieved or maintained.	Average daily Number during the Year.
Hospital of Incurables - - -	290	229
Poorhouse, Malta - - - -	872	672
Magdalen Asylum - - - -	14	8
Foundling Hospital - - - -	37	18
Poorhouse, Gozo - - - -	204	158
Orphan Asylum - - -	135	116

The average number of persons receiving out-door relief from public funds during the year 1880 was 1,747.

Lunatic Asylum.

The number of patients admitted in 1880 was 73 males, and 52 females; and the deaths during the same period were 19 males and 17 females.

The daily average number was 195 males, and 188 females.

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The number of patients at the end of the year 1880 was 394, divided into the following classes:—

	Males.	Females.
1. Maniacal and dangerous - - -	78	71
2. Quiet and chronic - - - -	54	61
3. Melancholy and suicidal - - -	40	32
4. Idiotic, paralytic, and epileptic - -	31	27
	203	191
	394	

Monte di Pieta Savings Banks.

The amount advanced on pledges in 1880 by the Monte di Pieta was:—

	£	s.	d
In Malta - - -	33,510	19	10
„ Gozo - - -	1,630	8	6
	35,141	8	4

The amount of deposits in the Savings Banks on 31st December 1880 was:—

	£	s.	d.		£	
In Malta -	247,684	7	6½	by	3,751	depositors
„ Gozo -	12,066	19	5	„	257	„
	259,751	6	11½		4,008	

Foreign Consuls.

The changes in the consular body in this Island were the following:—

Captain Ignatius Kohen, Consul for Austria, has been appointed Consul General, and Monsieur Eugène Daloz has been appointed Consul for the French Republic, in succession to Monsieur Georges Carra de Vaux.

Council of Government.

A general election of elective members took place in October 1880, and the following were the members returned.

For Malta:—

Mr. Agostino Naudi, LL.D.
Mr. Pasquale Mifsud, LL.D.
Mr. Salvatore Cachia Zammit.
The Very Rev. Canon E. M. Debono, D.D.
Mr. Francesco Saverio DeCesare.
Mr. Giovanni Sciortino, LL.D.
Sir Antonio Micallef, G.C.M.G., LL.D., for Gozo.*
Mr. Fortunato Mizzi, L.L.D.

* Sir Antonio Micallef resigned his post, but he was re-elected in the partial election which was held in January 1881.

Mr. Sigismondo Savona (Director of Education) and Mr. Adolfo Sciortino (Receiver General) have been appointed by the Queen to fill up the two seats vacated in consequence of the abolition of the offices of Collector of Land Revenue and Cashier of the Government Treasury.

Criminal Statistics.

The following is a statement of offences punishable, under the local laws, showing the number of accusations and of persons brought before the courts by the police, during the year 1880, and the manner in which the same were disposed of:—

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
CRIMINAL LAWS.				
Crimes against public tranquillity - -	22	22	1	21
„ affecting public credit - -	7	12	4	8
„ „ the good order of families	9	9	2	7
„ against the person - - -	378	527	80	441†
„ „ property - - -	537	762	200	562
Contempt of court - - - -	2	2	—	2
CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Affecting public order - - -	1,815	3,455	410	3,045
Against the person - - - -	410	606	98	508
„ property - - - -	40	86	39	47
OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Under special Ordinances - - -	665	1,077	80	99 7
POLICE LAWS.				
Contraventions - - - -	2,870	4,827	247	4,580
Total - -	6,755	11,387	1,161	10,218

viz:—

	No.
Maltese - - - -	11,063
English - - - -	277
Foreign - - - -	47
	11,387

The number of persons committed in 1880 was as follows:—

Men - - - - -	3,526
Women - - - -	452
Boys - - - -	863
Girls - - - -	7

† Eight cases on the 31st December 1880 were still pending.

Temperature and Rainfall.

The mean temperature of the air in the year 1880, was 67°. The maximum was on the 24th August 91°, and the minimum on the 13th January 47°.

The average rainfall during the year was 18 inches 56 cts.

General Remarks.

The comparative statement of the Revenue received from the Customs (the main source of the Malta revenue) showed a total receipt of 121,198*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, which, when compared with 1879, shows an increase of 626*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, and was only 2,337*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* below the receipts of the "Annus Mirabilis" of 1878 when the customs receipts amounted to 123,535*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* Indeed the collections of 1880 have exceeded the estimate by 6,098*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, as also the average receipts of the preceding last 10 years by 10,479*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

The favourable "increases" as clearly indicative of the prosperity of the Island are under wheat, 1,578*l.*, and an increased importation of 838 bullocks, always significant of improved social circumstances and habits. The "decreases" were under pulse, refuse, grain, spirits, and inferior wine; with regard to the first two they may be considered to have been of no real importance, and with regard to the last two quite insignificant, the decrease of 254*l.* on spirits, for instance, being mainly attributable to the prolonged absence of the fleet; and in inferior wine a decrease of 727*l.* on an average of a receipt of 23,000*l.* was due to the small yield of this year's vintage in Sicily, coupled with the appearance of the phyloxera.

The falling off under beer is also attributable to the absence of the fleet, whilst a decrease in the oil trade has been more than compensated by the increasing trade in petroleum, the stock of which has been as high as 46,969 cases, and is at present 17,353 cases. "The general labour of the port," which gives life to half the population of the Island, more than maintained its usual average. "The shipping returns" showing that 3,051 steamers (57 above the preceding year) and 1,745 sailing vessels, representing an aggregate tonnage of 3,068,609 tons, have touched at these ports, yielding an increase of revenue of 237*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, whilst under sailing vessels there was a decrease of 106 vessels, with a tonnage of 59,932 tons. As a coaling station, Malta still holds its pre-eminence, indeed this is the key-stone of its present prosperity. The importation and re-exportation of coals amounted during the year to 384,272 tons heaved in and out by local labour. In fact the business of coaling steamers alone left in the Island during the past year no less a sum than 19,213*l* 7*s.* as wages to colliers. On the whole the customs receipts for 1880, gave a most favourable view of the increasing prosperity of the Island.

Many works of magnitude have been voted by the Council during the past year, and are in course of construction. Dwellings for the poorer classes outside the Fortress, at a cost of 4,690*l.*, which will afford when constructed a great relief to over-populated Valletta, and an amount of 2,000*l.* towards the formation of tanks,

at an ultimate expenditure of 20,000*l.*, in aid of the main aqueduct Wignacourt, works which promise to be of the greatest future utility in adding to the water-yield of this splendid Aqueduct. The valuable drainage works, which have now been under construction for some years, have made great progress during the past year, and will in all probability be completed in 1882–83.

The health of the Island has been good throughout the year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) VICTOR HOULTON,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To his Excellency
Sir Arthur Borton, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Governor of Malta.
&c. &c. &c.

HONG KONG.

No. 23.

Governor Sir J. POPE HENNESSY, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Hong Kong,
April 29, 1881.

MY LORD,

1. I SUGGESTED two years ago that the financial statement in my Despatch of the 29th of November 1877 might be taken as the report on the Blue Book, but it is now probably more convenient to deal with the past few years under the principal heads specified in the annual returns. Those returns are arranged in the Blue Book under 33 headings, of which the first seven relate to finance. The others are concerned with public works, legislation, census returns, education, commerce, shipping, and industrial resources, gaols and criminal statistics, benevolent and religious institutions.

Finance.

2. A few weeks after I had assumed the Government of Hong Kong the finance returns of the preceding year (1876) were put before me by the Auditor General. The Revenue was certified to be 184,405*l.* and the Expenditure 187,569*l.* The fact that the Expenditure showed a disposition to run ahead of the Revenue was not owing to any want of care on the part of my predecessor, but to the circumstance that some of the monthly requisitions in the Survey Department, which the Governor had sanctioned, had been subsequently exceeded without previous authority. The attention of Heads of Departments having been called to the necessity of adhering to the Treasury instructions, and the ordinary checks on the monthly expenditure having been applied, the annual expenses of Government have since then been kept well

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within the annual income. For the last three years the Revenue and Expenditure has been as follows:—

	Revenue.	£
1878	- - - -	197,424
1879	- - - -	200,853
1880	- - - -	222,905

	Expenditure.	£
1878	- - - -	189,692
1879	- - - -	193,097
1880	- - - -	197,502

3. The chief items of this Revenue consist of the house taxes the Government opium monopoly, the Crown rents, stamps, postage, taxes on shipping, licenses on the manufacture and sale of spirits, and various fees under the Emigration, Shipping, and Registration Ordinances. Sir Hercules Robinson, in a Despatch which was laid before the House of Commons in 1865, expressed the opinion that nearly 98 per cent. of this Revenue was paid by the Chinese inhabitants of Hong Kong. I am disposed to think Sir Hercules Robinson rather over-rated the amount contributed by the Chinese. It is difficult to determine it with accuracy, but as far as I can ascertain, the Chinese pay more than 90 per cent. of the Revenue; and the amount they give to the State is certainly increasing in proportion every year. It will, doubtless, before very long reach the figure estimated by Sir Hercules Robinson.

4. The incidence of this taxation seems at first to be rather unfair, but in an Oriental community it would be difficult, if not impossible, to have it otherwise than it is. Whilst the largest item of revenue, the House Rates (47,916*l.*), falls on householders alike, the second largest item, that from the Opium Farm (42,708*l.*), falls on the Chinese only. The foreign built shipping, a considerable amount of which is now getting into the hands of Her Majesty's Chinese subjects in this Colony, pays the small tax of one cent. per ton, whereas the junks that assist in the commercial movement of Hong Kong pay fees for licenses, anchorage, passes, and clearances which amount to nearly two cents. a ton. As the emigration with which the Ordinances of the Colony deal is Chinese emigration, the fees in connexion with it fall ultimately on the Chinese.

5. On the other hand, the spirit licenses and some items under the Stamp Ordinance probably fall in proportion more on the small European population than on the native community. But whatever may be the actual incidence of the taxation, it is on the whole lighter than the taxation in any other British Colony with which I am acquainted.

6. Hong Kong is a free port. We have no Income Tax. We have no Public Debt. A moderate surplus (less than one year's income) is now invested in sound Colonial securities. In short, the foreign merchants of Hong Kong have the advantage of

carrying on their operations with greater freedom financially and otherwise, as far as the action of the State is concerned, than merchants have, perhaps, in any other part of the world.

7. The increase of the Colonial Revenue from 184,405*l.* in 1876 in 222,945*l.* in 1880 is not due to any increase in taxation, but to the general progress and prosperity of the Colony. The house taxes were 12 per cent. on the annual valuation in 1876, when they contributed 38,439*l.* to the Revenue; they were still at 12 per cent. in 1880, when they brought in 48,032*l.* to the Revenue. The Opium Farm, which was worth to the State 27,500*l.* a year in 1876, was subsequently sold for 42,708*l.* a year.

8. Some returns recently compiled by the Government valuators account for this satisfactory increase of Revenue without the imposition of additional taxation. The valuation of tenements in the town of Victoria for the last 10 years has been —

	Dollars.
1871 - - - -	1,784,435
1872 - - - -	1,770,207
1873 - - - -	1,798,349
1874 - - - -	1,805,644
1875 - - - -	1,781,946
1876 - - - -	1,773,848
1877 - - - -	1,820,478
1878 - - - -	1,847,817
1879 - - - -	1,982,048
1880 - - - -	2,156,109

From 1871 to 1876 the valuation appears not to have fluctuated much, towards the end of 1877 the Chinese began to flock to the Colony in larger numbers, and since then they have been building more houses and houses of a somewhat more expensive class and buying houses from Europeans. The consequent change in the value of house property in the last 10 years in the whole Colony. including the town of Victoria, is shown by the valuators in the following return of the Revenue from House Taxes in 1871 and 1880, the rate being 12 per cent. in both years on the valuation of houses in Victoria, and five per cent. in the rural districts.

Comparative Return of Police, Lighting, Water, and Fire Brigade Rates collected from Europeans, &c. and Chinese respectively, during the years 1871 *and* 1880.

	1871.		1880.	
	$	c.	$	c.
Europeans, including natives of the United Kingdom and other European States; also Americans, Portuguese of the East, Parsees, Indians, and, in short, all non-Chinese - - - - -	119,772	71	89,054	69
Chinese - - - - -	65,549	41	141,502	62
Total - - -	185,322	12	230,557	31

HONG KONG.

Public Works.

9. In 1877 I found that the injury inflicted by the typhoon of 1874 on the Praya Wall or principal quay of Victoria Harbour had not been repaired, owing to some necessary delays in getting the local plans revised by Sir John Coode. Under the advice of that eminent Consulting Engineer the plans were modified so as to give the requisite strength to the harbour frontage. This important work was begun in January 1878, and completed in November 1880, at a total cost of 52,160*l.* The piers will be finished I hope this year.

10. Exclusive of the foregoing Expenditure, I authorised an outlay in Public Works :—

	£
1878 - - - -	21,364
1879 - - - -	23,380

11. The principal Public Works, in addition to the repairs of the Praya Wall, on which this money was expended for three years, 1877, 1878, and 1879, were : the repairs to public buildings, which amounted to 12,523*l.*; the improvement and maintenance of the Waterworks, 14,656*l.*; the submarine cables across the harbour and maintenance of Telegraphs, 1,406*l.*; the drainage and sewerage of the town of Victoria, 12,873*l.*; the building of a new hospital, 1,685*l.*; the building of two houses at the Peak, as a sanitarium for the Government officers, 1,240*l.*; the conversion of some of the large association wards in the gaol into cells on the separate system, 1,242*l.*; the making and maintenance of Roads, Streets, and Bridges, 15,273*l.*; and Tree Planting, 3,571*l.*

12. Of the new roads begun and completed within the last three years, one runs from the old Peak Road at an elevation of 1,500 feet above the sea, and passing along the northern face of the hills winds through a part of the Peak region where of late several villas have been built by European residents. This road, and the branches to it, cost 1,336*l.* The much needed improvements made for the last two or three years in the streets in the Chinese quarter of the town cost 1,938*l.*

Telegraphs.

13. The system of telegraphs in the Island of Hong Kong was extended to British Kowloong last year by a submarine cable. Two years ago another cable was run across from the main Island to Green Island. All the police stations in the Colony have thus been put in direct communication with the central station in the town of Victoria.

Typhoon Breakwater.

14. Sir Arthur Kennedy's Despatch of the 14th of October 1874 showed that the typhoon of that year destroyed in a few hours a considerable number of the junk population of this

Colony. One of the reports he enclosed said: "The losses "sustained by Chinese junks as far as they could be ascertained "are: sunk and total loss, 185 junks; repairable, 455, but this "does not by any means show the terrible havoc which the "typhoon has made with this description of vessel. I have only "been enabled to count vessels stranded and those sunk, having "their masts above water, Hundreds of smaller junks and boats "must have been driven out to sea, or gone down in the harbour, "of which nothing can ever be known. HONG KONG

15. Of the bodies of Chinese found drowned and duly registered there were 419 adult males, 152 adult females, and 141 children. The fact that many families reside permanently in these junks accounts for the deaths of the women and children. In forwarding those figures to the Colonial Secretary, the Registrar-General reported that the returns did not show the actual loss of life, which he thought might be roughly estimated at thrice that recorded. Two other members of the Executive Council estimated the loss of life amongst the junk population of the Colony as between 4,000 and 5,000. The probability is that all these people were drowned in about 50 minutes when the force of the typhoon was at its maximum.

16. Soon after my arrival in Hong Kong, my attention was drawn to the subject by some of the Chinese merchants who had presented memorials in 1874 and 1875 to the Government, praying that steps might be taken to protect the boat population from similar calamities in future. I read Lord Carnarvon's Despatch of the 18th of November 1874, describing the deep personal interest the Queen had manifested in the calamity of 1874; and on inquiry, I ascertained that competent authorities were of opinion that it was possible to prevent this lamentable loss of life in future.

17. Therefore at the first Executive Council I held in this Colony, I pointed out that the construction of breakwaters at certain points in the harbour might save the lives of the floating population during a typhoon, and I proposed to instruct the Public Works Department to prepare an estimate of the probable cost of such places of refuge. The Council agreed with me, and the necessary instructions were given to the Surveyor-General.

18. From Admiral Watson, then the Commodore on this station, and Captain Bonham Bax, of Her Majesty's ship "Sylvia, I received valuable suggestions as to the best sites for the breakwaters. Admiral Ryder also approved of the scheme, and gave me his best assistance in maturing it.

19. Some of the leading Chinese merchants who were good enough to thank the Government for moving in the matter, assured me that they regarded the protection of the junk population as being of such vital importance to the Colony that they had contemplated raising a subscription amongst themselves to defray the cost of the necessary works.

20. Remembering, however, on the one hand, what a considerable sum the Treasury obtains from the Opium Farm and other taxes to which the Chinese contribute so largely, and on

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the other hand how essential this laborious junk population is to the transit of goods and the ordinary commercial operations upon which the prosperity of Hong Kong depends, I ventured to suggest that the breakwater should be built at the cost of the public. I submitted the plans and estimates to Her Majesty's Government in November 1877. Sir Michael Hicks Beach authorised me to begin the work in 1878, but the Survey Department having avowed its inability to undertake any special work of this kind until the repairs of the Praya Wall were finished, it was only this year that the work was taken in hand by the Acting Surveyor-General.

21. The breakwater is now being constructed in Causeway Bay, a part of the harbour selected for the purpose by a Joint Committee of Naval and Colonial officers. It will cost about 16,000*l.*, one half of which will be taken from a special fund obtained many years ago by the gambling licenses, the other half being a charge on current Revenue.

Education.

22. The accompanying reports for the last two years of the Acting Head Master of the Central Schools and of the Inspector of Schools show what progress has been made of late in education. The state of public instruction in this Colony is not, however, what it should be.

23. No doubt the important changes made in the grant-in-aid scheme by Sir Michael Hicks Beach have given very general satisfaction and removed a grievance under which more than three fourths of the Christian community suffered, and which I found had prevented the Roman Catholic Bishop, the Church of England Colonial Chaplain, and the Lutheran Pastor of the German community from accepting any share of the public money voted for education. The examinations under the grant-in-aid scheme are held by independent Government examiners in specified subjects) not including religious subjects), but the word "secular" has now been struck out of the scheme, and for the first time, every school in the Colony, whether religious or secular, can obtain a grant. At the same time schools other than "elementary" were also admitted under the scheme.

24. The grant-in-aid scheme is, however, only availed of by the missionary bodies for their schools and one or two small European schools. The Government scheme of education has not done much for the greater number of the community, the Chinese.

25. In the early years of this Colony successive Secretaries of of State impressed on Sir Henry Pottinger, Sir John Davis, and other Governors, the primary duty of encouraging schools where the Chinese boys could learn English. Some of my predecessors recognised the National importance of this, and directed English to be taught in every school supported by the Government. For a short time this was done, but on my first inspection of the Government schools I found that the teaching of English had been given up in all of them with one exception. In the principal

Government school, the Central School, which had been established for the special purpose of teaching English to the natives, I inspected two class-rooms containing 150 boys under three Chinese teachers, and I found that neither the teachers nor the pupils could speak a word of English. Soon after this I requested the European Head Master of the school to examine all the pupils on the roll and to report to the Government as to their capacity for speaking English. He reported that out of the 412 Chinese boys in attendance, 18 were able to speak English with considerable fluency, 58 spoke English with diffidence, and 336 could not be said to speak English at all.

26. Within the last few months the first examination of this school by independent examiners was held, when they obtained results almost as unsatisfactory as those reported by the head master, Mr. Stewart, in 1878. They reported that "scarcely any "of the Chinese boys produced in translation into English a "single grammatical sentence."

27. The result of such an educational system is seen in many ways. During the four years of my administration many trials have taken place in the Supreme Court, criminal trials and civil cases, both tried by juries, but though the majority of the prisoners tried are Chinese, and a considerable quantity of the property disposed of by the verdicts of juries is Chinese property, nevertheless, I do not remember in the whole course of those four years to have seen a Chinaman on a jury. The Ordinance under which juries are summoned provides that no man can sit on a jury who has not a knowledge of English. In the year 1877, an appointment was vacant in the magistracy, a clerkship worth 200*l.* per annum. For this clerkship a knowledge of English and Chinese was necessary, that is, translation from English into Chinese and from Chinese into English. I gave that appointment by open competition. I secured the services of the Bishop of Victoria, of Mr. Charles May, who was at the head of the magistracy, and of Mr. Ng Choy as three independent examiners to conduct the examination for that appointment. Eleven boys presented themselves as candidates for the examination, all Chinese youths, but the examiners reported that not one could pass the examination, and the reason they gave in their report was the want of power or experience in translating Chinese into English. Nearly all the candidates had been educated at the Central School, and three of them were monitors in the school.

28. In a letter written by the Inspector of Schools to the Colonial Secretary in April 1880 a passage occurs which, perhaps, accounts for the defective state of English teaching in the Colony. The Inspector writes:—

"I heard it once stated by the Head Master of the Central School, in presence of his Excellency the Governor, that there are foreign merchants in the Colony who, in the interest of local foreign trade, desire that their Chinese clerks should not be taught any more English than is required to enable them to copy

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an English letter readily and neatly, and who discourage, therefore, any attempt to give Chinese youths a thorough command of the English language."

29. Her Majesty's Government will, however, see from the enclosed reports that within the last two or three years the practice of teaching English has been restored in the smaller Government schools; and in course of time I hope to render the Central School more useful in this respect.

Trade and Commerce.

30. For several years past the trade of Hong Kong has been steadily increasing. The Harbour Master states that the total number of all vessels entered and cleared in the year 1880 was 62,495, with a tonnage of 8,634,376.

31. A large fleet of Chinese owned steamers, and, since last year, the steamers of a Japanese Company, are now competing with the foreign shipowners.

32. The German and American merchants, who at one time were displacing British traders, are now being displaced in turn by the Anglo-Chinese merchants of Hong Kong. The latter have become the chief means of sending British goods into China; and thus the native dealers and consumers in China find themselves brought closer every day to the British manufacturers. Under the old system in Hong Kong there stood between the manufacturer in England and the consumer in China a number of more or less costly intermediaries. Whilst the area for the consumption of foreign goods in China has been extending, owing to the tranquillity of the country and the quiet development of its internal resources, the cost to the consumer of such goods has been declining for many reasons, of which the increased number of Chinese merchants in this Colony is one, and hence the great increase in the general trade.

33. Even in the short time that I have been here the business premises of some well known European and American firms have been purchased by Chinese.

Opium.

34. Last year the number of chests of opium brought to Hong Kong from India was 87,747. The estimated value of which was 58,248,235 The greater part of this is taken to the Treaty Ports in foreign steamers, some of it is carried coastwise in junks, and a small quantity is prepared in the Colony for the opium smokers.

35. The Hong Kong Government gets at present $205,000 per annum from the Opium Farm, which is practically levying an ad valorem tax on it of more than 100 per cent. to the consumer.

36. I agree with Sir Thomas Wade that by the opium smuggling from Hong Kong into China the Government of China loses at least a million of taels of revenue per annum.

37. Three years ago I reported to Her Majesty's Government that the opium smugglers who make this Colony the base of their operations are a desperate class. I transmitted police reports, showing that they fit out here with the necessary armaments and proceed to do battle with the Chinese Revenue cruisers within sight of the Colony. In these battles sometimes Revenue Officers are killed and sometimes the smugglers. The latter will refit here or at Macao after a skirmish, purchase cannon and ammunition, and again attack the Chinese cruisers. A few months ago wounded men of both sides were brought to our hospital.

38. In this way Hong Kong and Macao maintain a sort of chronic opium war with China on a small scale.

39. I hope Sir Thomas Wade's plan, or any other just scheme by which the Chinese Government might get their lawful Revenue, may be soon carried into effect, for the existing system is injurious to legitimate trade, and endangers the friendly relations it is the true interest of this Colony to maintain with China.

Crime, Prison Discipline, and Flogging.

40. In acknowledging the receipt of a Despatch from my predecessor, on certain matters of prison discipline, Lord Carnarvon instructed me in June 1877 "to review the whole question "of prison discipline in Hong Kong, and to make such proposals "as would place the system upon a sound basis for the future." In doing this I found that in 1875 Sir Arthur Kennedy had appointed a commission on the subject, in consequence of the large number of old offenders brought before the magistrates; and in September 1876 he had reported to the Secretary of State that the returns for 1876 would show a "serious increase of crime in Hong Kong;" on visiting the gaol I ascertained that the Chinese prisoners were kept in associated cells, that there was no attempt at a reformatory discipline, that the turnkeys and guards were not well suited for such posts, and that for some years an experiment had been tried in dealing with crime and criminals according to a system unknown in any other part of the empire; the history of this experiment is not without some general interest, and it explains, to some extent, the proposals I made, and which Her Majesty's Government have sanctioned.

41. The treatment of criminals in Hong Kong had been carefully considered by one of the ablest of my predecessors, Sir Hercules Robinson; he pointed out the defects as to size and locality of the old prison in the centre of the town of Victoria; he recommended the building of a new prison on an Island in the harbour on a site that admitted of extension and of large yards suitable for reformatory labour; he also recommended a definite system of remission of sentences according to a scale to be communicated to the prisoners. Mr. Cardwell approved of the Governor's proposals.

42. In three years a gaol was built on Stone Cutter's Island, and the conditions on which prisoners could earn the remission

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of a small part of the sentences were also sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government and duly notified to the prisoners. The new gaol was barely finished when Sir Hercules Robinson was transferred to Ceylon, but the definite scale of remission of sentences had been worked successfully from 1864 to the end of 1866.

43. In the Governor's Blue Book Report for 1866 (presented to Parliament in 1868) Sir Hercules Robinson's successor mentions that he took on himself in October 1866 the responsibility of abandoning the new and extensive gaol just completed on Stone Cutter's Island. About the same time he also modified the authorised scale of remissions of sentences by directing that there should be no remissions unless the prisoners consented to be marked permanently on the lobe of the left ear and deported; and to this, in a few months, he added the further condition that they should be flogged if found again in the Colony.

44. Under this new system 529 prisoners were branded and 110 flogged, when Mr. May, the Police Magistrate, expressed the opinion that "there was not any legal power by "which branding could be inflicted or for flogging branded "men simply for being within the Colony after deportation," and he requested that the opinion of the Attorney General might be taken on the subject. Sir Julian Pauncefote there upon wrote, "since my return to Hong Kong in December "1868 I have heard of criminals being liberated upon certain "conditions as to branding, deportation, and flogging, but I "never was consulted until now as to the legality of these pro-"ceedings;" and he concludes a clear and well drawn opinion by stating that the proceedings in question were illegal.

45. This unauthorised branding and flogging was at once stopped by an Executive order, and a disposition was shown to return to Sir Hercules Robinson's system. Thereupon some highly respectable and very influential European residents held an indignation meeting and memorialized the Government in favour of branding and flogging Chinese criminals, instead of returning to Sir Hercules Robinson's system, which they pointed out would involve the cost of a new gaol and was in their opinion unsuited to the Chinese race, a race that they conceived to be incorrigibly bad; they pointed out the economy in prison expenditure of branding and deporting the Chinese, and, if they returned, flogging and deporting them, and again flogging and deporting them if they came back, and so on, ad infinitum, instead of feeding them in gaol and only liberating them on certain authorised conditions.

46. This led to the passing of Ordinance 4 of 1872, which is described in the Statute book of Hong Kong as "the branding "and flogging Ordinance."

47. Under this Ordinanec a printed form was used "Return "of prisoners in Victoria gaol, Hong Kong, who are eligible for "remission of sentences in accordance with Ordinance 4 of 1872," the heading of one column being "date of completion of half "sentence and willing to be marked." Sometimes this form

was altered so as to provide for the branding and deportation of prisoners who had only served one third of their sentences. Occasionally prisoners have been deported who had served from one fifth to one tenth only of their sentences. Thus legislative sanction was formally given to a system of remission of sentences entirely different from that established by Sir Hercules Robinson.

48. As the new system admitted of reducing the number of prisoners in the gaol at any moment, it also appeared to render his idea of a new gaol unnecessary.

49. I soon found that this experiment in the treatment of criminals had not been entirely successful, and that I could not comply with Lord Carnarvon's instructions, to submit proposals for placing the system of prison discipline on a sound basis in future, if the experiment were to be continued.

50. I called for returns showing the real effect of the experiment on the criminal population. I found that those returns justified a statement made in October 1872 by Mr. Douglas, the late Superintendent of the Hong Kong gaol, in a report on branding, to the effect that when a prisoner is deported with a gaol mark on his neck, which cannot be concealed and not removed without mutilation, it prevents him from getting an honest livelihood in his own country, or being taken as an emigrant, so that such a man is tempted to become a pirate or a robber near the shores of this Colony, upon which he is thus driven back. I sent to Lord Carnarvon a list of 39 prisoners branded and deported on one day, a short time before my arrival, which showed that long-sentence prisoners, short-sentence prisoners, prisoners whose character in gaol was described as "very bad," and those whose character was described as "very good" had all been treated in the same way, and sent in a batch to the mainland of China when one third of their sentences had been worked out.

51. Sir Brooke Robertson, Her Majesty's Consul at Canton, told me that he thought the system was not quite fair to the Chinese authorities nor to the Chinese villagers near Hong Kong. The Chief Justice of Hong Kong, in giving jndgment in a case in which a Chinaman had been deported on an illegal warrant, publicly expressed the opinion that the system was hardly consistent with our treaty with China, and that the Government of China might justly complain of it. On this latter point the Governor who had started the experiment had officially recorded his opinion that "it suits this Government very well in a selfish point "of view to get all its criminals exported to other countries."

52. But even taking as the guardian of the peace and good order of the Colony, a purely selfish view of it, I felt unable to sanction the continuance of the system. A police report, from the frontier of British Kowloong, that was submitted to me in the ordinary course of official business, said, "numbers of deported "criminals frequent this neighbourhood, on the 8th instant "15 men who had been branded and banished from Hong "Kong were counted in the streets of Chinese Kowloong and "Sham Shui Po."

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53. On further inquiry I ascertained that the places where these old offenders were seen were not a hundred yards from the boundary of the Colony, and on sending for the gentleman who was acting as the head of our police force he assured me that the night robberies and the serious crimes that were causing alarm had been committed by branded men, some of whom had been flogged and deported more than once. Some of them had committed felonies half a dozen times. Others were well known burglars. Others had been simply branded and deported as rogues and vagabonds, and thus rendered permanent outcasts.

54. Knowing the strong feeling that existed in certain quarters in favour of treating the Chinese with exceptional severity, I submitted the facts to the Legislative Council so as to elicit a full expression of their opinions on the subject before I made any suggestions to Her Majesty's Government. In September 1877, in laying certain returns and papers before the Council, I quoted the opinion of the late Lord Derby, who, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, in refusing to sanction an application from Hong Kong in 1845 for the branding of the Chinese, had said :—

"An indelible mark impressed on the cheek of a criminal, even "if unattended by pain, is yet evidently objectionable, as fasten- "ing on the delinquent a stigma from which he could never be "rescued by any future course of good conduct; it would con- "sign him to permanent infamy, and would finally obstruct his "return to virtue and his admission into reputable society."

55. The returns and papers I printed for the information of the Council showed but too clearly the soundness of Lord Derby's judgment, and the inconvenient consequences of turning out batches of criminals with indelible marks that tended to consign them to a life of permanent shame, and by an Act of the State to render their reformation difficult and sometimes impossible.

56. As to the alleged economy of the system, I found that some of these branded, flogged, and repeatedly deported criminals had by their night raids on the Colony destroyed property in a few months to a greater amount than the whole cost of their maintenance in goal would have been in 10 years, had they been kept in prison under the rational system established by Sir Hercules Robinson and Mr. Cardwell.

57. Furthermore I ascertained beyond all doubt that the negation of prison discipline, the excessive use of the lash, and the illegal punishments that had become mixed up with this system, had created and fostered a criminal class in the Colony and the neighbourhood, instead of diminishing the number of criminals. In short a system devised for the suppression of crime had increased crime.

58. Before, however, venturing to deal with what seemed to be some blemishes in the penal legislation of Hong Kong, I was able to make some changes in the Hong Kong Prison. As a temporary measure, until a new prison or a new site could be built, I ordered some of the large associated wards to be converted

into separate cells. I was able to appoint a trained warder and a trained head turnkey, selected from the convict service in England, and to employ a few trusty Chinese assistant turnkeys instead of some unsatisfactory Europeans of a low class who had been repeatedly fined for drunkenness and for beating prisoners. With respect to this latter reform, which has undoubtedly tended to establish a better system of prison discipline, I take this opportunity of correcting a misconception into which the "Daily News" and some other London newspapers fell in referring to the Despatches on flogging in Hong Kong laid by Sir Michael Hicks Beach before Parliament in 1879. Those journals dwelt on the selection of some trained warders from the English convict service, and the appointment of Chinese turnkeys who would know something of the language and habits of the prisoners, as reforms in Hong Kong for which I deserved credit. But, in point of fact, the entire credit of those appointments is due to Lord Carnarvon. Having received a Despatch from my predecessor describing the misconduct and incompetence of the gaol subordinates, his Lordship in writing to me, a few weeks after my arrival, said:—

"I would suggest for your consideration, whether it would not be expedient to select two trained warders from the home service at 150*l.* each, to be on an equality with the officer at present styled Head Turnkey, to weed out from the present class of turnkeys the most unsatisfactory members of the class, as occasion may justify their removal, to reduce the total number of the class say to six or eight, and to employ some trusty Chinese as assistant turnkeys under strict European supervision."

59. I was, therefore, only the medium of carrying into effect the Secretary of State's suggestions.

60. The two warders selected in England came from the staff of the convict prison at Chatham. One of them is now the warden with a salary of 255*l.* a year; and he is competent to act as Deputy Superintendent. He has done good service in reforming the gaol discipline. But Lord Carnarvon's idea of having some Chinese turnkeys has been one of the most interesting and useful reforms effected in the Hong Kong prison.

61. That those reforms and a few minor ones have been worked well is mainly due, however, to the fact that Mr. Tonnochy, the Superintendent of the gaol, is a thoroughly good officer.

62. Four years' ago I drew Lord Carnarvon's attention to the excessive number of floggings in Hong Kong, and to the undue severity, in some cases leading, in the opinion of the Colonial Surgeon, to loss of life, with which the lash had been applied. In a report dated July 1877 the Colonial Surgeon said:—

"I have noticed that in all floggings of Chinese with the cat, that they suffer, besides the external injury of the skin, more or less from congestion of the lungs afterwards, and in old cases where the floggings have been severe, irreparable injury has been done."

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In referring to some cases in a subsequent report he said:—

"Mok-A-Kwai, released from gaol in a dying condition, and Leung-A-Hoi still in gaol suffering from phthisis, were both when they entered healthy, powerful, muscular men, presenting no indications whatever of hereditary disease. To what then can the disease they were attacked with be attributed? I cannot myself regard it otherwise than as caused by the punishment they had received, both of them were horribly marked, their backs having sloughed from extensive bruising."

Lord Carnarvon felt some difficulty in accepting the Colonial Surgeon's statements as to the injurious effect of flogging prisoners on the back, inasmuch as he was the medical officer who had for years certified that such floggings might be safely administered.

63. The Secretary of State therefore directed an inquiry by a Medical Board, of which the Colonial Surgeon should not be a member, to examine and report as to the truth or otherwise of a theory which his Lordship thought was one "of extreme im-
"portance, whether regarded from the point of view of ordinary
"humanity, of medical science, or of penal discipline."

64. The Medical Board, which consisted of the principal Naval Medical Officer on the station and a local physician, reported that unfortunately no record had been kept, based on careful medical examination of the condition of the prisoners prior to punishment, and that they could get no reliable statistics to guide them. In reply to this the Colonial Surgeon remarked that had "he known
"or foreseen what the effects of flogging would be, he would
"have taken more careful notes," the Board had therefore to rely mainly on what they saw themselves in the gaol in 1878.

Referring to the rattan that they saw used in the Hong Kong gaol, they said, "we consider the rattan too heavy a weapon
"(it is 47 inches in length and two inches in circumference),
"and its effects are very likely to go deep into the cellular and
"muscular tissues, probably producing loss of substance by
"sloughing, and thus for a long time delaying the healing of the
"wounds." In describing the effects of some floggings they themselves witnessed in the gaol, they refer to a case where "a
"secondary abscess formed over the hip joint," and to another in which they saw a prisoner receive 36 lashes on the 1st of March, with respect to whom they say they found, on the 14th of May,
"the wounds not healed, sloughing from the evident loss of sub-
"stance," and on the last examination they made of this case early in September "the wounds then were not completely healed."

65. Whilst therefore unable to throw much light on the specific question of the physiological effect of flogging on the back, the Medical Board exposed the fact that the instrument, or as they call it "the weapon," generally used in the Hong Kong gaol, had been too heavy and severe. One piece of evidence, however, elicited by Lord Carnarvon's inquiry was interesting, and it explained a passage to be found in an address to the Queen from the Chinese inhabitants of the Colony, in which they refer to the

bad effect of flogging on the back. This was an extract from a Chinese work known as the "Imperial Revision of T'ai-p'ing."

66. In this ancient work, which was personally revised by the Emperor T'ai-tsung in A.D. 983, it is stated that an Emperor of the Tang dynasty reading a medical book on the relation between "the "five viscera and the back" said, "Our modern law books on "flogging with the bamboo say if the flogging is distributed over "the hip and upper part of the back death may unexpectedly re-"sult therefrom, and naturally it must be so if people are flogged "on the upper part of the back; now flogging with the bamboo is "the lightest of the five punishments, whilst a question of life "and death is the most serious thing for man; how then can it be "permitted in the case of the lightest punishment to incur the "risk of causing death by flogging? From of old the Emperors "and Kings have never thought of this; is this not deplorable?" Thereupon he (T'ai-tsung of the T'ang dynasty) immediately issued an Ordinance forbidding to flog criminals on the upper part of the back."

67. Though the "modern" law books to which the Emperor alluded had been compiled more than 1,000 years ago, yet I was not disposed to despise them on that account, more especially as the danger to life of flogging criminals on the back has been recognized by the practice of the Chinese Government for many centuries.

68. The papers relating to flogging in Hong Kong that were laid before Parliament in 1879* give such full statistics and information that I need only add on the subject of flogging that I stopped all public flogging and branding in 1877, and put a stop to flogging on the back pending the decision of Her Majesty's Government. Year by year I was able to reduce the number of floggings, and it is now more than 12 months since any sentence of flogging has been carried out in Hong Kong.

69. Whilst the powers conferred on me by Her Majesty's Commission enabled me to do this, I did not feel justified in recommending at once a revision of the statute book of Hong Kong.

70. A few years' experience of the provisional measures I had adopted having shown that crime could be controlled and diminished without barbarous and unnecessary punishments, by simply adhering to the well understood principles of prison discipline and of police administration, I ventured last year to submit my final recommendations on these questions to Her Majesty's Government. In doing so I transmitted various returns and reports respecting the diminution of crime for the last three or four years. Amongst those returns were the following :—

Number of Admissions to the Hong Kong Gaol.

1877 - - - - -	3,946
1878 - - - - -	3,803
1879 - - - - -	3,669

* [C.-2438] August 1879.

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1877 - - - - -	7,908
1878 - - - - -	7,794
1879 - - - - -	6,119

71. Amongst the reports was one from the experienced head of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Sir John Smale, in which he said :—

"His Excellency the Governor has restored the rule according to which Sir Hercules Robinson dealt with convicts.

"In 1866 the Executive, in order to avoid the expenses of a second gaol, gave conditional pardons, without reference to myself as Chief Justice, to hundreds of prisoners after having served very short portions of their sentences, the condition being that they should leave the Colony, and this practice was followed subsequently. Most of these men returned to the Colony, and to that I attribute the formation of an enlarged criminal community, from which the Colony has never since been freed. His Excellency the Governor, since about the end of a year after his arrival, re-established the rule of Sir Hercules Robinson, and referred the cases to the Judges as Sir Hercules Robinson had done. Thus, mercy to those deserving of it has always been shown, whilst really dangerous characters have been kept in prison. Thus, also, the Judges act on the assurance that the precise sentence will be carried out, subject only to remission according to settled rules.

"Although by law the Supreme Court has long been enabled, by special provisions, adequately to punish old offenders twice previously convicted, a practice prevailed at the Magistracy to deal with such offenders by repeated sentences of short terms of imprisonment. His Excellency the Governor, however, being impressed with the entire uselessness of these proceedings, induced the Magistrates to send all such old offenders for trial in the Supreme Court. At first these raised the number of prisoners for trial there greatly. The first monthly calendar after the change raised the number of prisoners for trial to, I believe, 40, but when the adequate punishment of old offenders became known, subsequent calendars soon returned to the usual rate, and some of the worst characters in the Colony were subject to long terms of imprisonment without any sensible increase in the inmates of the Gaol.

"Flogging, as an additional punishment for crimes accompanied with violence, was introduced by Ordinance immediately after Chief Justice Adams and I had gone home on sick leave. He and I had always opposed its introduction. I am bound to say that on my return, after trial for a year, the universal satisfaction expressed at the result induced my reluctant acceptance of the system."

"I, however, was prepared to consider with very great earnestness the objections of his Excellency the Governor to flogging in

public, supported as he was by the highest authority at home. Flogging being brutal and brutalizing, it appeared to me that flogging in private had both these characteristics, whilst it was largely wanting in the deterrent element addressed to the eyes of the lowest brutes in society, which, to me, had been its chief, if not its only recommendation. I rarely sentenced men to be privately flogged, but I soon became convinced, as I now am, that although the Ordinance might well remain unrepealed, it should be had recourse to only in very exceptional cases, and that, with rare exceptions, flogging may be avoided altogether."

72. Some general interest may perhaps be felt in the experiment begun in 1866 and continued for 10 years in this Colony in the treatment of criminals. But the consequences of stopping it and of pursuing a different system for the last four years, may possibly throw some light on the special question now agitating Australia and the United States as to the alleged criminal character of the Chinese race.

73. What has occurred here shows that though a criminal population may be manufactured, the Chinese are not naturally a criminal population. On the contrary I regard the Chinese as the least criminally disposed race I have seen in any part of Her Majesty's dominions. Perhaps this might be explained by the fact that no other race in the world combines so many of the qualities that are the rational antidotes to crime; industry, temperance, frugality, and filial affection.

74. Reviewing the whole question, I therefore felt justified in suggesting last year to Her Majesty's Government that the Branding Ordinances be repealed, that public flogging be abolished by law, that all laws in Hong Kong which impose flogging on persons of the Chinese race exclusively be repealed, that all flogging be abolished except for such offences as entail flogging in England, and that flogging on the back be abolished by law.

75. Your Lordship approved of those recommendations. The draft Ordinance for carrying them into effect has been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government and in a few weeks the objectionable part of the penal legislation of Hong Kong will be expunged from the statute book.

76. So far therefore the ground is cleared for placing the prison system of Hong Kong on a sound basis. To do this, however, it will be necessary to build a new gaol on the separate system. The existing gaol is in the town of Victoria surrounded by houses. It was built in 1863. It is quite unsuited to the wants of the Colony and its structure is defective. Plans for rebuilding the gaol on Stone Cutters' Island on the site selected 16 years ago by Sir Hercules Robinson have been prepared.

Piracy.

77. Piracy in the waters of South China has steadily declined, and may indeed be said to have almost ceased, as compared with

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the early days of the Colony. Her Majesty's Navy have done much to bring about this result, but the numerous Chinese gunboats in the neighbourhood and the Revenue cruisers of the Chinese government have contributed also to its suppression.

78. What Mr. Gûtzlaff states in his Life of Taokwang should not be forgotten, that piracy was hardly known in South China when this Emperor was able to exercise full authority. The weakening of the native Government consequent on the opium war and other foreign wars enabled piracy to spring up again. As the Chinese Government has regained strength the traders have been protected and piracy has declined.

Police.

79. When Sir Arthur Kennedy assumed the government of Hong Kong in 1872, your Lordship instructed him to take in hand at once, and endeavour to reform the Police force, which had become utterly demoralized from various causes such as the temporary establishment of the gambling license system. He lost no time in dealing with it vigorously and thoroughly. He found it necessary in one year to strike 158 men off the roll. He set his face against recruiting any of the European members of the force in Hong Kong, having seen that discharged sailors and men of that class made very indifferent constables. He entered fully into the question of constituting a large contingent of the force of well conducted Chinese.

80. Owing to the good offices of the Crown Agents for the Colonies he was able to obtain from the United Kingdom a trusty and respectable body of men, and to establish a system by which the Crown Agents from time to time, select recruits to fill the vacancies that occur. The Local Government is much indebted to the Crown Agents for the care they have shown in selecting these men. His Chinese branch of the force was also chosen carefully, and it has turned out to be a valuable instrument in the detection and prevention of crime. The Sikh contingent he likewise improved. The consequence was that on succeeding Sir Arthur Kennedy, I found a police force of Europeans, Chinese, and Sikhs in Hong Kong superior in its personnel to any police force I had ever seen in Her Majesty's Colonies.

81. At present the police force has a strength of 610 officers and men, not counting 52 Coolies. The 610 consist of 125 Europeans, 314 Chinese, and 171 Sikhs.

82. The good condition in which I found this force has been maintained by simply adhering to the admirable lines laid down by Sir Arthur Kennedy. In 1878 I found it necessary to establish a two-thirds' night duty system, and in the following year, on the recommendation of a Committee of the Legislative Council, alterations were made in some details of administration. In 1878 and 1879 I substituted steam launches for the comparatively slow row-boats of the water police, from which the quick native sampans so often escaped. These changes have all worked well.

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83. Having observed in the records of the Supreme Court a few cases where Chinese had been sentenced to death who were subsequently pardoned on the ground that they were innocent, and that other miscarriages of justice had occurred apparently from defective interpretation, I invited in 1877 the judges and members of the bar to favour me with their views as to the interpretation in the Supreme Court. They agreed in describing it as deplorably bad. The Chief Interpreter was a Portuguese gentleman, who, in the words of the Chief Justice, "cannot interpret the written language of China," and who "is unable to express himself in correct English." The others were Chinese who received small salaries and did not know English very well. None of the Judges knew Chinese. Neither the Attorney General nor the Crown Solicitor nor any of the bar, except Mr. Ng Choy (who was called in 1877), knew Chinese. The Registrar and Deputy Registrar and the Sheriff were equally ignorant of the native language. The juries were composed of foreigners who, in 19 cases out of 20, did not understand a word of Chinese. And yet, in the majority of the criminal cases, the prisoners and witnesses were Chinese who knew no English, and the bulk of the property disposed of by the Court in civil cases was Chinese.

84. To remedy this defective condition of affairs, I appointed a European gentleman, who had been born in Canton, and educated in England, as oral interpreter to the Supreme Court. I also placed the interpreters of the Police Court at the disposal of the Supreme Court, filled up all vacancies in the staff of interpreters by strict competitive examinations, and applied to all other officials the principle established by Sir George Grey (Despatch No. 8 of 28th April 1855), who considered a knowledge of the Chinese language as "essential generally for the civil service at Hong Kong," and who accordingly laid down the rule "that no application for "increase of salary in that service is to be made for any person "who has not learned Chinese."

85. For the proper translation of documentary evidence, and as a general supervisor of the staff of interpreters, your Lordship has been able to give the Supreme Court the services of Dr. Eitel, the Inspector of Schools, a well known writer on Chinese subjects and one of the best foreign scholars of the Chinese language.

86. The present Acting Chief Justice informs me that these changes have put the interpretation of the Court on a sound basis.

87. Some changes in the department of the Supreme Court that deals with the public money were also rendered necessary. The year after my arrival it was discovered that the Deputy Registrar had given no security as Official Assignee, to which he had been appointed in 1867, and, being called upon to give security and to produce the accounts in the long unsettled bankruptcy case of Lyall, Still, & Co., he fled to Macao, when it was found that he had misappropriated about 12,700*l.* Having

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been given up by the Portuguese Government, he was convicted in Hong Kong and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.

88. As the defalcations had gone on for 12 or 14 years, and affected many local interests as well as the reputation of the public service, I felt it necessary to constitute a Commission of Inquiry into all the offices of the Supreme Court that were concerned in the receipt of money and the management of trust property. The Commission I appointed consisted of the Colonial Secretary and Auditor, the Attorney General, the manager of one of our principal banks, and a solicitor.

89. The Commissioners, having taken evidence, reported to the Government that estates that should have been wound up 10 years before were found by them unsettled; that the cash accounts in 31 estates in bankruptcy had never been balanced; that in many instances the balances to the different estates had disappeared; that there had been illegal commissions, fees, and interest charged or misappropriated by former registrars. Finally they said:—

"It is very clear that there has been no check whatever upon any officer, but a most lax practice has existed for years past in the Supreme Court with regard to the accounts and the general conduct of business."

90. Having consulted the Judges with respect to this report, and the various recommendations of the Commissioners, I appointed a Court Accountant, requested the Auditor General to make an audit of the accounts every month, directed the Court fees to be paid in future by stamps, and made some minor changes in the subordinate offices of the Court.

91. It is due to the Judges of the Court to record the fact that for many years the Registrar's department of the Court had not been efficiently filled, and that they had more than once requested the Auditor General to examine the accounts of the Court. The changes I was thus able to make on the advice of the Judges will tend to prevent delays and defalcations in future, but the want of a competent Registrar is still felt.

Sanitation and Public Health.

92. The experiments at sanitation in this Colony are not without interest. The town of Victoria (containing 100,000 inhabitants) is built on the lower slope of a hill, the top of which is about 1,800 feet above the harbour. Dr. Hance, the eminent botanist, tells me that when the Colony was established, 40 years ago, the ravines behind the site of the present town were well filled with indigenous trees. As the ground was being opened up to make streets a good deal of fever prevailed. Some of the doctors attributed the difficulty in curing the fever to the existence of the trees. The trees were accordingly cut down, but with the removal of the trees the fever appeared to increase.

93. A sanitarium was built on the Peak, 1,700 feet above the sea, but when the doctor who recommended it went away, his

successors condemned it, and the sanitarium was for some years abandoned.

94. Governor Sir Richard Macdonnell, who had some experience of the difference of residing at a high and low level on the coast of Africa, tried the sanitarium on the Peak again and with complete success. The Governor's example has since been followed by European merchants or officials who can afford to build villas amongst the hills; on the European children especially the good effect of the change from the hot stagnant atmosphere of Victoria Harbour to the fresh breezes of the Peak in the summer is very marked.

95. Of late years the medical dictum about the fever-producing quality of trees has also been reversed, and the sanitary advantages of tree planting established.

96. The Ordinance No. 8 of 1856, "An Ordinance for Build-"ings and Nuisances," gives the Local Government complete control over the construction of all buildings in the Colony. This law contains a series of minute and stringent rules, with adequate penalties, framed to prevent the construction of any houses that are not built on what was then supposed to be the best sanitary principles. The Ordinance was evidently copied almost entirely from certain Sanitary and Building Acts in force, at that time, in England. I cannot find that the Chinese householders were in any way consulted on the subject when it was being framed and passed; and the result is that some of its provisions are entirely unsuited to this Colony and would do more harm than good if enforced. Amongst other things, Clause VIII. provides that it shall not be lawful to construct or re-construct any house without a sufficient water-closet or privy; this is copied from an English Act, but the system of water-closets and house privies is a system quite out of place in a tropical Colony, and not in accordance with the customs of the Chinese people.

97. The Chinese house-bucket system, especially when combined with the dry earth system (which in various ways, more or less perfect, they have practised for centuries), is far better than a system of water-closets and house privies. The Chinese inhabitants maintain that the attempts now and then made by successive Surveyor Generals and Colonial Surgeons to force what is called "western sanitary science" upon them are not based on sound principles. As I stated in the Legislative Council in November 1878, in a discussion in which I referred to Ordinance 8 of 1856, the leading Chinese residents had said to me:—

"Nothing alarms us more than the Government projects of drainage and water supply for flushing house sewage. They are not consistent with our mode of living."

98. On that occasion I quoted the views of one of the most experienced medical men in China, Dr. Dudgeon of Peking, in support of the Chinese house-bucket system as opposed to the underground drainage system, whether connected with water-closets or house privies. In his work on "The Diseases of China "contrasted with those of Europe," he says:—

"Much that is recommended at home in the way of ventilation,

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water supply, and disinfection of privies is rendered in China unnecessary. All the advantages claimed for the dry earth system are gained here free of expense to the individual or public. The industrious and frugal habits of the Chinese, and even their very poverty, thus work to their advantage (all sanitary measures more than repay their cost), for it compels them to utilize all excrementitious matter. Every particle of every kind of manure, besides rags, paper, &c., are collected and preserved with the greatest care. The private privies, which are all out of doors, are visited daily by these manure collectors, and so great is the demand for it, that no payment is made to these scavengers. Foreigners pay a trifle monthly to guarantee respectability, cleanliness, and regularity on the part of the collector. The healthiness of our foreign settlements in China is, in a great measure, owing to the absence of water-closets in the dwelling-houses, which in Europe are a fruitful source of disease. Gases, such as sulphuretted and carburetted hydrogen, are not so injurious to health when given off in the open air, as when escaping from sewers. China is *par excellence*, the country of bad smells, and yet, as we have seen, the people do not seem to suffer from them.

"The removal of excreta and the disposal of sewer water is the sanitary problem of the day in Great Britain. There the sewers allow transference of gases and organic molecules from house to house and place to place; occasionally, by bursting, leakage, or absorption, the ground is contaminated, and the water supply is constantly in danger of being poisoned and contaminated, and all these dangers are greater from being concealed and being beyond individual control. Fevers and cholera are thus possibly propagated from house to house. In China we are entirely free from this danger."

99. With the best possible intentions, some of my medical and sanitary officers have, from time to time been arguing against Dr. Dudgeon's views and the long established practice of the Chinese community. Those officials advocate an underground network of drains and sewers in Hong Kong, and of compelling the Chinese to build their houses and to modify their domestic arrangements in accordance with "the methods of western sanitary science." I have pointed out to them that the methods of western sanitary science of a few years ago, which they are so fond of quoting, are no longer considered infallible; and that some public health officers in England seem even disposed to take a lesson now from the experience of China, and to adopt views similar to those of Dr. Dudgeon. I have reminded them that the only fatal cases of typhoid fever that occurred in Hong Kong since my arrival have been in European built houses with water-closets; and that the Chinese residents do not appear to suffer from typhoid fever or diphtheria.

100. In the tabular statements appended to the Colonial Surgeon's reports for 1877, 1878, and 1879 the total number of cases of typhoid fever amounts to eight, all being Europeans. Other forms of sickness arising from sewer gas, defective water-closets,

or privies in the European style, appear also to be confined mainly to the Europeans.

101. Instructions were given by the Secretary of State in 1867 to have the dry earth system of conservancy carried out in the gaol and the other Government establishments; the local medical authorities did not, however, approve of the system. Nine years after the instructions from Downing Street had been duly recorded, a Committee appointed by my predecessor called his attention to the vitiated state of the air and the stench in the Hong Kong gaol, and on further inquiry I ascertained that the dry earth system was not in use, that every morning nightsoil was emptied down a drain in the middle of the gaol yard.

102. As the gaol stands on the slope of a hill in the middle of the town, I was not surprised to learn that the residents in some of the streets between the gaol and the harbour had the same complaint to make as the Gaol Committee of 1876.

103. An inquiry ordered in July 1877 also exposed the fact that the majority of the European houses built on the drainage valley of the reservoir that supplied the town with drinking water, had no proper sanitary system, and that the upper sources of the water supply were constantly polluted.

104. No real difficulty was however experienced in getting the instructions of the Secretary of State enforced, and in 1878 a Medical Committee, consisting of the principal Naval Officer on the station and a leading civil practitioner, sent me a report in which they said "the sanitary arrangements of the gaol are good, "the dry earth system recently introduced works well."

105. Whatever the cause may be, the public health of the Colony has undoubtedly improved of late years. Whilst some of the provisions of Ordinance eight of 1856 may not have done much good, other parts of that Ordinance have been enforced with advantage to the public.

106. As an illustration of this, I may mention that an application came before me in January 1879, from a firm of European architects, suggesting that I should allow certain houses which were to be built for a Chinese bank and a goldsmith's shop to be constructed without kitchens or cooking places. As I usually do in such matters, I desired to see the opinions of the leading Chinese on the question before I finally decided it; and I venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the sensible views these gentlemen expressed. The Acting Chinese Secretary's report, dated 1st February 1879, is as follows:—

"I consulted the leading merchants of the Nampakhong Guild on the subject. They are of opinion that in Section VIII. of Ordinance eight of 1856 we have a very good and useful rule, viz., that in all buildings which are used or liable to be used, either partly or entirely, as dwelling-houses, there should be safe cooking places. With reference to the arguments adduced in Messrs. Wilson and Salway's letter, they are of opinion that, although the owner of the premises may wish his tenants or employés to obtain their food from cookshops, there is no

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certainty that they would always do so; on the contrary, they are of opinion that the employés on the premises would be certain to boil, at any rate, their tea on the premises, and boil water every evening for bathing, the consequence of which would be that the smoke would become a nuisance to the other tenants, and that the lighting of fires in unsafe places would endanger the whole house and the surrounding houses too."

107. The statement of the native merchants that the Chinese tenants and employés would have to boil water every evening for bathing purposes would not surprise any one really acquainted with the habits of even the poorest Chinese. No doubt certain Europeans in Hong Kong, as well as in California and Australia, denounce the Chinese as a dirty race, who never bathe; but the fact is that, in this important sanitary practice, they are a clean people, and even in the lower classes set a good example, which our soldiers and sailors here would do well to follow.

108. Dr. Stout, of the State Board of Health of San Francisco, and one of the oldest physicians in California, refers to this in his evidence laid three years ago before Congress. Having stated that he lived in the midst of the Chinese quarter, to which no doubt the majority of the residents had come from Hong Kong, he was asked:

"*Q.* During your residence there have you known of any disease, any pestilence originating and spreading in there, or spreading from there?

"*A.* No, sir; none.

"*Q.* The Chinese live in that quarter very closely, do they not?

"*A.* Quite closely, sometimes.

"*Q.* How is it that you account for the fact that under these circumstances they are apparently so healthy.

"*A.* Their frugal life gives them more immunity from disease. They eat only what is necessary to live upon. They eat to live and do not live to eat. They are clean in their habits, and they drink no whisky. I have never seen a drunken Chinaman in my life. They consequently obtain a better resisting power to the attack of disease.

"*Q.* What is their habit in regard to ablutions?

"*A.* They constantly wash themselves.

"*Q.* The whole person, or only the face and hands?

"*A.* My observation of the men is that they keep themselves clean. Their clothes are clean. As mechanics or workmen they keep themselves very clean.

"*Q.* What is the comparative mortality among the Chinese and the whites of this city, the death-rate?

"*A.* The death-rate is greater among the whites than among the Chinese.

"*Q.* What is the comparative mortality among adult Chinamen and adult white people?

"*A.* The amount is greater with adult white people.

"*Q.* Have they had epidemics in the Chinese quarter?

"*A.* No, sir; the small-pox has been among them, as it has been among others, but I think there has been less small-pox among them, I mean the ratio of population allowed, than with the whites." HONG KONG.

109. On recently calling the attention of the Health Officer of Hong Kong, Dr. Adams, to this evidence, he remarked that it agreed with his own experience, and that he was often surprised to see how very generally the Chinese passengers who came under his notice as Medical Emigration Officer had been vaccinated or inoculated. He said he had rarely seen a Chinese child on whose arm could not be detected three or four of the characteristic marks of vaccination.

110. It is quite possible that the comparative freedom of the Chinese in San Francisco from small-pox to which Dr. Stout refers may, to some extent, be due to the enlightened action of the directors of the largest hospital in Hong Kong, the Tung Wah Hospital. The medical staff of the Government does not do very much in the way of vaccination, as far as the great mass of the community is concerned. But certain Chinese doctors, who are paid by the Directors of the Tung Wah Hospital, are indefatigable vaccinators. They do not confine their labours to the town of Victoria, but travel through the villages of the Island, vaccinating all newly born children. Since 1878 they have gone beyond the Colony and vaccinated in the neighbouring towns and villages of the Kwangtung Province.

111. When it is remembered that Hong Kong is constantly being visited by steamers and ships from places where small-pox exists, and that the rapid commercial movement in the harbour renders the Colony peculiarly liable to the introduction of the disease, there can be little doubt that the immunity we have enjoyed for some years past has been largely due to the efficient vaccination conducted under the auspices of the Tung Wah Hospital.

112. The directors are now building a special small-pox hospital to the south of the Tung Wah Hospital. All the expenses of this new building, as well as the salaries of the travelling vaccinators, are defrayed by the voluntary subscriptions of the Chinese Community of Hong Kong. This is exclusive of the annual subscriptions, amounting to about $7,000, they provide amongst themselves in aid of the Endowment Funds of the Tung Wah Hospital.

113. Dr. Stout's statements as to the healthiness of the Chinese in San Francisco, though living so closely packed, may tend to explain a discrepancy which your Lordship cannot have failed to notice between the contradictory assertions made occasionally by some leading Europeans in this Colony, including even one or two officials, and the annual reports made at the same time for the information of Parliament by my predecessor.

114. In Sir Arthur Kennedy's Blue Book Report, dated 10th of September 1874, he said:—"The general health of the Colony "has been satisfactory." Mr. Administrator Austin in the Blue

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Book Report of June the 14th 1875, said:—"The health of the "Colony is very satisfactory." Sir Arthur Kennedy in his last annual report (24th August 1876) said:—"The general health "of the Colony has been good . . . . The health of the whole "community has improved." Since those authentic reports were made the annual death-rate of the Colony has declined year by year, the general health of the whole community has continued to improve, and the Registrar General's returns for the current year show the lowest death-rate hitherto recorded in Hong Kong.

115. Nevertheless, during those very years, 1874, 1875, and 1876, complaints were made of the alarming consequences to the public health from the influx of Chinese into the Colony and the way they were living so closely packed. One of the principal European merchants, who had obtained some reports (of the years 1874 and 1875) of two Government officials in support of his views, gravely urged me to pull down a considerable number of Chinese houses and put a stop to any more Chinese coming here, on the ground that their overcrowding and mode of life endangered the health of the Europeans. I was able to point out that whilst the reports in question foretold immediate outbreaks of typhoid fever, cholera, and small-pox, amongst this increasing Chinese community, Sir Arthur Kennedy and Mr. Austin had carefully tested those assertions and found them entirely inconsistent with the annual statistics of sickness and mortality.

116. On sanitary grounds also, I was asked in 1877 to take a step which would have done more perhaps than anything else to stop the influx of the Chinese.

117. I was told that three days before my arrival in the Colony and in the interregnum after Sir Arthur Kennedy had left, one of the Government officials had submitted certain rules respecting Chinese burials and graves which were about to be carried into effect, and, as it was thought prudent to have a sufficient force ready in case of resistance, it was suggested that the police might be supported if necessary by some troops.

118. On calling for the rules I found that they had been devised apparently for sanitary purposes only, but, with some little knowledge I had gained of the Chinese in Labuan, I could not avoid seeing that the rules did not show much respect for the customs or prejudices of the natives on the subject of graves.

119. Further inquiry elicited the fact that those rules had been drawn up by three European gentlemen, that the Chinese community had not been consulted and knew nothing of the sweeping reform that was impending.

120. Having requested the Colonial Secretary to invite 10 or a dozen of the Chinese residents that he considered to be the most intelligent and respectable, to a conference on the subject, I found that the proposed sanitary rules would be far from agreeable to them.

121. Mr. Chun-A Yin, who spoke on behalf of the others, assured me that if the rules were enforced many well to-do Chinese would leave the Colony and settle elsewhere. He said that though some of the rules were inconsistent with the practice of their religion, there would be no outbreak or outrage as had

occurred some years before at Macao when Governor Amaral did something of a similar kind, and that there would be no necessity for appealing to force as they would simply go away. Amongst other objectional rules he pointed to Rule 3.

"Single graves shall not be more than 6 feet long, by 2 feet wide, or less than 5 feet deep."

122. That a grave should be at least 5 feet deep, Mr. Chun-A Yin and the other Chinese thought a very good provision, and one of them pointed out that it was already the law of the Colony, but that a special rule should be made to compel the Chinese inhabitants only to have graves not more than 6 feet long and 2 feet wide they said would render it impossible to bury Chinese in single graves in the Colony, as those graves are, according to Chinese custom, much larger and broader than such a rule would allow. They said there were Chinamen in Hong Kong more than 6 feet high; and that Chinese coffins, which are constructed according to certain prescribed regulations, for which the people have great veneration, are much longer and broader than the coffins in use in western nations, and that their coffins could not fit into a grave only 6 feet long and 2 feet wide.

123. An ordinary Chinese coffin measures 6 feet 6 inches in length, and, at the head it is 2 feet 7 inches wide. The coffin of a Chinese gentleman who has received a button or decoration (such as some of the Chinese merchants in this Colony have) is enclosed in a case measuring 7 feet 9 inches in length, and at the head 3 feet 3 inches in width. Even the coffin of a pauper measures over 6 feet in length. The difference in the size of Chinese and foreign coffins arises from the fact that the Chinese religion demands that a coffin be scooped out of the solid trunk of a tree. To bury a Chinaman in a coffin made of boards nailed together would be considered irreligious.

124. In further conferences with these native gentlemen they clearly explained how all the sanitary arrangements the Government might require could be secured without offending their religious customs or turning them out of the Colony.

125. In putting my veto upon the proposed rules, I requested that no Government regulations for dealing with the Chinese should be framed in future without giving the leading Chinese residents an opportunity of knowing what was proposed to be done.

Tree Planting.

126. Sir Michael Hicks Beach pressed upon my consideration the subject of the preservation and re-establishment of forests as one of great and increasing importance, in which the health and prosperity of the Colony were deeply concerned.

127. Small as my experience of Her Majesty's Colonies had been I had long felt that there was a general tendency to under estimate the necessity of tree planting, and that even in Colonies with apparently the most limited scope in this respect something ought to be done.

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128. Accordingly in the summer of 1877 I advised the officer then in temporary charge of the plantations that, on sanitary and other grounds, the operation of the so called Forest Department should be extended. In reply to my inquiries on the subject he had informed me that the waste lands of the Colony capable of being wooded comprised about 10,000 acres, and the average number of seedling trees planted per annum was about 15,000. In his report of August 1877 he said :—

"If our planting operations were continued at their present tortoise speed, viz., at the rate of 15,000 trees a year, it would take us 1,100 years to complete the job."

129. In laying this Report before the Legislative Council in November 1877, I expressed the opinion that the time had come when the Colony should deal in a more comprehensive manner with the question of tree planting, that with an adequate annual vote for forming nurseries for seedlings and paying regularly organized staff of tree planters, we should be able in a few years to transform the appearance of the Colony and permanently improve its sanitary condition. The Legislative Council not only sanctioned an immediate vote of $2,000, but having watched its beneficial effect, they have allowed me to increase it from year to year, and they have now agreed to an expenditure of $10,000 a year on tree planting, instead of an annual expenditure of about $700, which had been allowed up to 1877.

130. That afforestation has been taken thoroughly in hand your Lordship will have seen from Mr. Ford's recent reports. Instead of planting out 15,000 trees per annum, Mr. Ford has planted 781,986 this year.

131. With the co-operation of the Chinese farmers in Hong Kong to which the Superintendent refers in his report, it will, I trust, be possible to plant for the future a million of trees per annum. If we can proceed at that rate it will only take 10 years to fairly plant the Island.

132. I have not confined the planting to the native pine tree, the Pinus Sinensis, only. Bamboos are planted in ravines as well as on the steepest hills and hill tops, and the Banyan tree along the road sides. Some of the latter that have been transplanted this year to the roads leading from each end of the town have been successfully moved considerable distances, though with trunks from 4 to 7 feet in girth.

133. The success with which this fine shade-giving tree can be transplanted, even when 30 feet high, makes it possible to transform glaring roads into green avenues with a rapidity that would surprise arboriculturists in Europe. The nurseries contain seedlings of indigenous oaks, Casuarinas, and other hardy and valuable timber trees.

134. Three years ago about 1,000 cocoa-nut palms were planted on Stone Cutters' Island at Bowrington, and close to the village of Aberdeen, and some are now being planted along the sea beach to the east of the town of Victoria. These trees will

be ornamental, though at this latitude they do not bear ripe nuts.

135. On the important sanitary question of cultivating the Eucalyptus in Hong Kong, it appears that only 400 seedlings of the Eucalyptus Globulosa had been planted in the Colony, and that of these but 100 survived up to 1879. The necessary steps were then taken for getting 4,000 seedlings of another species of Eucalyptus which grows in a climate resembling that of Hong Kong, and this number will be increased year by year.

Chinese and Irish Famine Funds.

136. Within the last few years I had to make two appeals to the community to relieve national distress. In both cases the well known munificence of the European merchants of Hong Kong was shown, and in each case the benevolence of Her Majesty's Chinese subjects was also manifested. The subscriptions in this small Colony for the Chinese Famine Fund amounted to $120,000. Of this sum the Europeans contributed $12,000, and the Chinese $108,000. For the Irish Famine Fund the Chinese also contributed more than half the sum collected, and the largest individual subscribers were Chinese. One Chinese gentleman gave $2,000, another $1,500, and several gave from $100 to $500.

137. The Relief Committee was able to send her Grace the Duchess of Marlborough 4,359*l.*, Mr. Gray, M.P., Lord Mayor of Dublin, 2,000*l.*, and to Mr. Kennedy, Mayor of Cork, 1,000*l.* Comparing the population of the Colony and the annual Revenue with the population and Revenue of other Colonies, the proportion contributed by Hong Kong is relatively greater than the contributions sent to Ireland from any other Colony. Applying the same test, population and public Revenue, the 7,000*l.* sent from this small island, constituted a larger contribution, comparatively speaking, than the 35,000*l.* raised by the Lord Mayor of London, or all the generous contributions from the United States.

Ecclesiastical and Religious.

138. The number of ecclesiastics and of religious institutions in Hong Kong seems to be out of all proportion to the size and population of the Colony. At one time last year there were five Bishops here, and the number of priests and ministers of the various Christian denominations is extraordinary. At the Te Deum on the Queen's birthday I have seen an altar crowded with Italian, French, Spanish, and Chinese priests; this large religious element has done good to the Colony in various ways, St. Paul's College, which is under the control of the Bishop of Victoria, has been of great benefit to the Church of England community, and it was also distinguished at one time for the thoroughly sound education in English it gave to some Chinese

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youths. At present it is very useful in providing a good school for the children of the upper and middle classes of European Protestants.

139. The German Foundling Hospital and the Italian and French Convents are benevolent institutions deserving of the highest praise. But the religious life of Hong Kong is essentially missionary.

140. In fact, Hong Kong is one of the most important centres of missionary work in the world. One ecclesiastic here acts as the business agent of 18 missionary bishops in China and Japan. Putting aside the undoubted benefits conferred on local education, on local Christian charities, and on the tone of society by the presence here of those missions, I cannot confirm what has been more than once recorded in the Blue Book Reports that have been printed for the information of Parliament, namely, that this Colony is producing a beneficial effect on the heathen population of the great Empire of China and "leavening the surrounding "mass of ignorance and superstition." On the contrary, for many years past, Christianity has been declining in China, and, at this moment, the total number of Christians is considerably less than the number that existed in the last century.

141. Writing from a spot where I have exceptional opportunities of knowing the facts, I must not conceal from Her Majesty's Government that this decline of Christianity is due not to a want of zeal on the part of the Christian missionaries themselves, but rather to the conditions under which they are willing to work.

142. They proceed from this Colony into China supported by treaties, Consuls, and, if needs be, gunboats. The Chinese associate them with a system to which, whether rightly or wrongly, they object very much, the system of foreign intervention. A Chinese statesman who was visiting me said :—"The missionary "enterprises that have their head-quarters under your Govern- "ment would be treated by us with the same friendly toleration "that we accord to the Tauists and the Buddhists but for their "constant appeals to what they call treaty rights; but those "treaty rights, though framed by the late Emperor of the French "and by the illustrious Lord Palmerston in the interests of true "Christianity only, and not for any political object whatever, do "not appear to us Chinese to be as serenely elevated above worldly "considerations as their religiously minded authors doubtless "intended, and the consequence is that Christianity is making "no way, is indeed declining visibly."

143. There are other causes also in operation in the social and commercial life of Hong Kong that cannot have a very beneficial effect on the heathen population near us. In explaining why he did not send a son to be trained in Hong Kong, one of the Canton merchants of the old Hongs said to me, "your Western progress "which makes children so independent of their parents and "substitutes individual and youthful energy for family ties and "the influence of grey hairs may suit you, but we do not like it. "Your commercial laws by which a trader can get rid of his debts

" without paying them are strange to us. We prefer the anti- " quated system by which debts must be paid in full, if not by " the debtor himself by his children or grand-children or other " descendants." HONG KONG.

144. My opinion was recently asked by Her Majesty's Government as to the expediency of discontinuing the ecclesiastical grants which are paid to the Colonial Chaplain and sexton of the Church of England. I have reported in favour of maintaining them.

145. A certain number of the Government officials are members of the Church of England, and no doubt they accepted office expecting to receive gratuitous religious ministrations.

146. Though the wealthiest and most numerous class of rate-payers, the Chinese, get no benefit from the Colonial Chaplain, they have not the slightest objection to see his salary on the Estimates. The few Chinese who trouble themselves about such matters say that this is a Crown Colony and that Her Majesty is the Head of the Church of England, and that they therefore have no desire to see any discontinuance of the ecclesiastical grants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

LABUAN.

LABUAN.

No. 24.

Governor C. C. LEES, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Labuan,
July 20, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book returns for the Colony of Labuan for the year 1880.

Revenue.

2. The total revenue received amounted to $28,432·44 cents, of which $21,000 was realised from the excise licenses farmed out of opium, tobacco, spirits, fish, and pawnbroking; the other principal heads of revenue being:—

	$
Land sales - - - -	578·50
Land revenue - - -	1,420·35
Rents, exclusive of land - -	941·62
Miscellaneous receipts - -	1,504·94
Special receipts - - -	1,463·41

LABUAN.

The Oriental Coal Company stopped its mining operations on the 13th August 1879, these have not yet been resumed, thus the Company has contributed nothing to the revenue of the Colony during 1880.

Another source from which a large portion of the revenue was obtained has yielded nothing, this was the profit arising from the sale of the copper coinage of the Straits Settlements. The quantity issued to Labuan having reached a point at which it was beginning to flow back to Singapore, the Government of the Straits Settlements discontinued after 1879 to supply any more, a sum however of $1,000 was brought to credit in 1880, being for arrears due from 1879.

It had been foreseen that revenue from this source would cease, but no new means of taxation in its stead seemed feasible in so small a community; a reduction of the fixed establishment was made during 1877, and economy in this direction has probably now reached its limits consistent with the continuance of Labuan as a separate Government.

The following is a return of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years, including the profit on copper coin:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Profit on Copper Coin.
	£	£	£
1875 - - -	8,757	6,721	3,340
1876 - - -	9,429	7,578	2,527
1877 - - -	7,490	7,995	1,724
1878 - - -	7,418	7,212	989
1879 - - -	7,541	7,359	695

From which it will be seen that even prior to the cessation of the works at the coal mines the revenue in any one year never equalled the expenditure without the assistance of the profit on the sale of the copper coin. The Chinese merchants at Brunei were large purchasers of copper money.

The comparative prosperity of the Colony at any given time may I think be fairly accurately ascertained by the revenue derived from the "Excise Licenses farmed out," namely, the opium, tobacco, spirits, fish market, and pawnbroking.

This revenue amounted in 1878 to $23,040, in 1879 to $23,790, and in 1880 to $21,000, falling off in the last-named year in consequence of the dispersion of the employés of the Coal Company after the stoppage of the works. The value of the farms will doubtless at once be increased on mining operations being resumed.

Expenditure.

3. The total expenditure during the year amounted to $32,223·69 cents, being $3,791·25 cents in excess of the revenue, the deficit was met from the surplus funds standing to the credit of the Colony. The payments during 1880 were $3,099·72 cents less than those of 1879, this result being effected chiefly by a reduced outlay on "Public Works and Buildings," and on roads, streets, and bridges.

The principal items of expenditure were:—

	$
Establishments - - -	22,106
Services exclusive of establishments:	
Pensions - - - -	2,645
Gaols - - - -	1,386
Works and buildings - -	1,591
Special payments - - -	2,203

Under the head of "Special Payments" is included a sum of $1 513·83 cents, which was expended in wages to labourers thrown out of employment by the stoppage of the coal mines, the intention was to afford relief to the Coolies thrown out of work, and to prevent them all leaving the Island in search of employment, so that on the resumption of the work at the coal mines, which was expected soon to take place, a nucleus of trained labourers would be found on the spot.

Assets.

4. The balance of the Colony's assets over its liabilities on the 31st December 1880 amounted to $38,099·44 cents, this, however, includes a sum of $23,268·82 cents for rental due by the Oriental Coal Company; deducting this as doubtful of recovery, there remains a reliable balance of $14,830·62 cents.

There is no public debt.

Local Revenues.

5. Previous to the 1st June 1879, the residents in Beach Street, Victoria, levied among themselves an assessment at the rate of 10 per centum on the rent of their houses to defray the cost of lighting the street. On the report of a committee appointed to inquire into the working of the late corporation of Victoria, and at the request of the principal householders interested the Government undertook the collection of the light rates and the management of its expenditure free of cost to the residents in Beach Street. Between $20 and $25 are raised monthly, and about a similar sum disbursed.

Military Expenditure.

6. The Colony does not incur any military expenditure. There is no militia. The establishment of armed police was fixed at two Europeans and fifty-four native non-commissioned officers and privates, at a cost of $8,675·91 cents.

Public Works.

7. The expenditure on public works, roads, buildings, &c. amounted to 1,834·56 cents, and was, with the exception of some new stone culverts in Victoria, confined to necessary repairs. This expenditure is exclusive of that incurred specially in employing the Coolies from the coal works, who were engaged making a bridle path across the Island and clearing jungle.

Legislation.

8. Five Ordinances were passed during the year, viz:—

No. 1. To repeal and to re-enact with alterations Ordinance No. 1 of 1877, entitled "An Ordinance to prevent the spread of certain contagious diseases.

No. 2. To make final provision for the public service for the year 1879.

No. 3. To prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases amongst cattle in the Colony of Labuan.

No. 4. To make provision for taking from time to time the census of the Colony of Labuan.

No. 5. To make provision for the public service of the Colony of Labuan during the year 1881.

Civil Establishment.

9. The changes in appointments of a responsible nature were as follows: Mr. Lees resumed the Government on the 1st of May on appointment, relieving Mr. Treacher, Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Treacher proceeded on leave of absence on the 19th September, when Dr. Leys was appointed to perform the duties of the various offices held by Mr. Treacher.

Abdul Wahab, the new schoolmaster, arrived on the 13th February, in succession to Rejah Moonshee, resigned.

Pensions.

10. The total expenditure under the head of pensions amounted to $2,472, being the same as that of the previous year.

Population.

11. By the census taken in 1871 the number of inhabitants was shown to be as follows: white 50, coloured 4,848. The former now number only 22, while the latter have increased to nearly 6,000. The area of the Colony is given at 30·23 square miles.

Education.

12. There is one free week-day boys' school. It was temporarily closed in August 1879 in consequence of the resignation of the schoolmaster and re-opened in February 1880, when the

services of a successor were with difficulty obtained. The schoolmaster also performs the duties of Malay writer and interpreter, thus his time cannot be entirely devoted to his pupils. This arrangement will no doubt be modified as soon as the finances of the Colony will permit. There are 30 names on the roll, and the average daily attendance during the year was 17.

Trade.

13. During 1880 the value of imports was $803,349 and of exports $791,390; for the previous year they were respectively $707,262 and $807,613.

The goods imported, largely from Singapore and partly from Hong Kong, consisting of salt, rice, opium, tobacco, cotton goods iron ware, arms, and ammunition are exported to North Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago; on the other hand the produce obtained from North Borneo and the Sulu Archipelago, consisting of sago, edible birds' nests, camphor, gutta-percha, rattans, mother-o'-pearl shell, tortoise shell, and trepang, form the exports to Singapore and Hong Kong. There are three sago manufactories in the Island where the raw sago received from the coast is converted into sago flour, this employs a considerable number of persons and is the most important export.

Shipping.

15. The tonnage entered during the year was: sailing vessels 1,234 tons, steamers 10,108 tons, making a total tonnage of 11,342, being about 500 tons more than in the previous year.

There was regular steam communication with Singapore, Brunei, Sandakan, and Sulu, while four sailing ships visited the Island from Hong Kong.

Ayriculture.

16. The soil of Labuan is generally poor, though in the plains it is moderately fertile, but not of sufficient area to attract Chinese agriculturists.

In these plains padi (rice) is grown by the Kadayans a race of Borneo proper. The harvest gathered is little more than sufficient for the wants of the planters. The variety called hill or dry rice is not now planted, the soil on the hills after the jungle has been cut down appearing to become exhausted after producing one crop. The sugar cane is but little grown, the cocoanut palm flourishes and yields a fair quantity of nuts. Oil is manufactured from such as are not exported to the coast for consumption.

Cattle and buffaloes thrive, the latter only are used for purposes of draught or burden. The former supply beef of good quality.

Mines.

17. The Oriental Coal Company ceased operations at the mines in August 1879, and the attempts to develop the coal resources of the Colony have not since been resumed.

Grants of Land.

18. Nine lots of town land comprising $\frac{4}{5}$ of an acre; five lots of suburban land comprising $\frac{5}{8}$ of an acre; and eight lots of country land comprising $71\frac{2}{3}$ acres were sold by auction during the year on leases of 999 years, with a small annual quit rent.

The acreage of the Colony is estimated at 19,350 acres, of which 2,219 have been sold or granted.

Crime and Prisons.

19. The daily average number of prisoners confined in the gaol was 45; the average sick was 1·71; and one death took place during the year.

The cases brought before the criminal courts were few in number and chiefly of a petty character.

Hospitals.

20. The health of the Colony during 1880 was good. The number admitted into the Civil Hospital was 182, and the daily average of sick was 5·6. There were eight deaths.

A register of the rainfall was kept by the Colonial Surgeon, who puts the rainfall for the year at 143·91 inches.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. C. Lees,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1879, 1880, and 1881.

(*In continuation of* [C.-3094.] *August* 1881.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 1882.



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VICTORIA.

No. 1.

Governor the MARQUIS OF NORMANBY to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Melbourne,
November 2, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Digest of the Statistics for the year 1880, which has been compiled by the Government Statist, for insertion in the Annual Parliamentary Blue Book, showing the condition and progress of the British Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NORMANBY.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

DIGEST of the STATISTICS of VICTORIA, 1880, by HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, Government Statist.

1. A census of Victoria was taken on the 3rd April 1881, that being the date on which the census was also taken in the United Kingdom, in the other Australasian colonies, and in most other portions of the British Empire. Census of 1881.

2. According to the Victorian census the total population of this Colony was as follows:— Population, 1881.

Males - - - -	452,083
Females - - - -	410,263
Total - -	862,346

3. The previous census was taken on the 2nd April 1871, when the population returned was 731,528, viz., 401,050 males and 330,478 females. The increase during the intervening decenniad was thus, 130,818, viz., 51,033 males and 79,785 females. Population, 1871 and 1881.

4. Between the censuses of 1871 and 1881 the increase in the total population was 17·9 per cent., the increase in the male population was 12·7 per cent., and the increase in the female population was 24·1 per cent. Increase, 1861 to 1871.

VICTORIA.

Increase, 1861 to 1871.

5. Between the censuses of 1861 and 1871 the total population increased in the proportion of 35·4 per cent., or about double the rate at which it increased between the censuses of 1871 and 1881.

Births over deaths in 10 years.

6. The excess of births over deaths between the censuses of 1871 and 1881 was 145,773, viz., 66,906 males and 78,867 females. Thus, if the Colony had retained the whole of its natural increase the census would have shown 15,873 more males than it did. It did show females equal in numbers to the natural increase and 918 more, and it thus resulted that the total increase of both sexes was less by 14,955 than their natural increase.

Estimate in excess of truth.

7. The estimated exceeded the actual population by 67,000, viz., 55,000 males and 12,000 females. Allowing a certain proportion of this difference to have been owing to unregistered deaths, and a further proportion to unrecorded departures by sea there is little doubt that the great bulk of it is due to departures to the adjacent Colonies overland, of which no account is or can be taken.

Unreliability of population estimates.

8. It may be observed that the uncertainty as to the accuracy of the periodical estimates of population has continually been mentioned by the Government Statist, who has stated it to be unavoidable in consequence of the insufficiency of the data on which they were based. It was, of course, impossible to tell before the census was taken whether the population would be less than the estimate or not, but the fact of there being no way of recording the movement of the population across the border in a country like Victoria, where that population consisted, to a great extent, of persons engaged in mining pursuits and other occupations of an unsettled character, naturally pointed to the necessity of caution in using these estimates, and this the Statistical Department lost no opportunity of urging.

Probable falling off of adults.

9. That there was every probability of a falling off, not only upon the estimates, but even upon the numbers at the last census, in the case of adults, especially males at certain ages, was pointed at most unmistakably by the smallness of the marriage and birth rates, also of the death rates of adults at those ages, and in many other ways, and this was constantly given warning of. Of the actual amount of the deficiency at this period of life no statement can be given until the census returns of ages are tabulated, which work is now being proceeded with as rapidly as possible.

Reconsideration of former estimates.

10. The want of agreement between the estimated and the enumerated population will necessarily cause a reconsideration of the figures which in the Victorian Year Book and Statistical Register have been set down as showing the probable population of each year, and the difference involved in this want of agreement will be distributed as fairly as possible over the different years of the decenniad. All calculations of averages or proportions to population during these years will also be reworked, and may then be considered as final.

11. Worked back from the census figures, the population of Victoria at the end of 1880, and the mean or average population of that year, may be set down as follows :—

Population at end and middle of 1880.

Population, 31st December 1880.

Males - - - -	451,456
Females - - - -	408,611
Total - -	860,067

Mean Population, 1880.

Males - - - -	446,445
Females - - - -	403,898
Total - -	850,343

Proportions of the sexes.

12. The census of 1881 showed that the sexes in Victoria had attained a nearer approach to uniformity than had been reached at any previous period in the history of the Colony or than had been anticipated. The proportions were 90·75 females to 100 males, or 110·2 males to 100 females. In 1871 the proportion of females was 84·4 to 100 males, and in 1861 it was 64·4 to 100 males.

Density of population.

13. The population returned at the recent census furnishes a proportion of nearly 10 (9·8) persons to the square mile, or 98 persons to 10 square miles. The proportion in 1871 was 8·3 persons, and in 1861 6·1 persons to the square mile.

Urban and rural population.

14. The following is a division of the area of Victoria into three districts, the population of which is given according to the returns of the recent census. The first of these districts is that comprised within a radius of 10 miles from the centre of Melbourne ; the second the space outside that limit embraced in cities, towns, and boroughs (present or former); and the third the remainder of the Colony :—

Urban and Rural Population, Census of 1881.

Districts.	Estimated area in square miles.	Population, 3rd April 1881.		
		Total.	Proportions per cent.	Persons to the square mile.
Urban — Metropolitan -	259	282,947	32·81	1,096
Urban — Extra Metropolitan.	366	188,477	21·86	515
Extra-Urban or Rural -	87,259	390,922	45·33	4½
Total of Victoria -	87,884	862,346	100·00	9⅘

VICTORIA.

Increasing proportion of metropolitan population.

15. The urban is greater that the rural population, and the population of the Metropolis alone is equal to nearly 33 per cent. of that of the Colony. This proportion has a tendency to increase, as will be observed by the following figures:—

Proportion of Population of Melbourne and Suburbs to Total Population of Victoria.

	Per cent.
1861 - - -	25·89
1871 - - -	28·87
1881 - - -	32·81

Area and population of Melbourne and suburbs.

16. The following table shows the estimated area and the population in 1871 and 1881 of the various cities, towns, boroughs, &c. comprised in the Metropolitan district; also the numerical and centesimal increase of the population of each place in the interval between those two periods, and the density of the population of each place at the latter period:—

Melbourne and Suburbs. Area and Population, 1871 *and* 1881.

Sub-Districts.	Estimated area in acres.	Enumerated Population.		Increase* in ten years.		Persons to the acre 1881.
		1871.	1881.	Number.	Per cent.	
Melbourne city - -	5,020	54,993	65,859	10,866	19·76	13·1
Hotham town - -	565	13,491	17,839	4,348	32·23	31·6
Fitzroy city - -	923	15,547	23,118	7,571	48·70	25·0
Collingwood city -	1,139	18,598	23,829	5,231	28·14	20·9
Richmond town - -	1,430	16,889	23,405	6,516	38·58	16·4
Brunswick borough -	2,722	4,388	6,222	1,834	41·75	2·3
Prahran city - -	2,320	14,096	21,168	7,072	50·18	9·1
Emerald hill town -	2,311	17,101	25,374	8,273	48·38	11·0
Sandridge borough -	2,366	6,388	8,771	2,383	37·32	3·7
St. Kilda borough -	1,886	9,085	11,654	2,569	28·28	6·2
Brighton borough -	3,288	3,059	4,755	1,696	55·44	1·4
Essendon and Flemington borough - -	5,088	2,456	5,061	2,605	106·11	1·0
Hawthorn borough -	2,389	3,329	6,019	2,690	80·81	2·5
Kew borough - -	3,533	2,430	4,288	1,858	76·46	1·2
Footscray borough -	4,525	2,473	5,993	3,520	142·38	1·3
Williamstown borough -	2,775	7,126	9,034	1,908	26·76	3·3
Remainder of district -	123,320	13,295	19,080	5,785	43·51	·2
Total - -	165,600	204,744	281,469	76,725	37·48	1·7
Shipping in Hobson's bay and river - -	—	2,036	1,478	−558	−27·51	—
Total population of district -	165,600	206,780	282,947	76,167	36·84	—

Population of suburban municipalities.

17. It is thus seen that between the censuses of 1871 and 1881, whilst the population of Melbourne city increased by 11,000, or

* The minus (−) sign indicates a decrease.

something less than a fifth, the population of the city with its suburbs, or "Greater Melbourne," as the whole may be called, increased by 76,000, or 37 per cent. Every one of the suburban municipalities increased in a greater ratio than Melbourne city, the increases ranging from 142 per cent. in the case of Footscray, and 106 per cent. in the case of Essendon and Flemington, to 27 per cent. in the case of Williamstown, and 28 per cent. in the case of St. Kilda and Collingwood. The population of the part set down as "Remainder of District," embracing the portion not included in any city, town, or borough, but in which the villages of Coburg, Northcote, and Heidelburg are situated, increased 44 per cent. The most populous suburban municipality at the present time is Emerald Hill, with over 25,000 inhabitants; then Collingwood, Richmond, and Fitzroy, each with between 23,000 and 24,000 inhabitants. The least populous one is Kew, with 4,288 inhabitants, then Brighton, with 4,755 inhabitants. Not one of the suburban municipalities contains anything like half the population of Melbourne city.

Decrease in floating population.

18. The inhabitants of the shipping in the Port of Melbourne, as enumerated at the recent census, were fewer by 558 or 27½ per cent. than they were at the previous census. This is the only direction in which the Metropolitan population has become reduced since 1871.

Chinese.

19. The exact number of Chinese in the Colony will not be known until the tabulation of the "Birthplaces" has been completed, but as far as is at present known the number enumerated amounted to 12,132, viz., 11,871 males and 261 females. In 1871 the number of Chinese enumerated was 17,935, viz., 17,899 males and 36 females, therefore, if the present figures are correct, the total number has fallen off by 5,803 and the males by 6,028 in the last 10 years, but during the same period the females have increased by 225.

Aborigines.

20. A careful examination of the schedules has up to the present time afforded information of the existence of only 780 Aborigines, viz., 460 males and 320 females. It is probable that more exist, as the sub-enumerators frequently fail to comply with the instruction to note the fact of the person being an aboriginal after the birthplace entry, and therefore the name, place of residence, &c., rendering it probable he belongs to that race, have to be taken into account, and these do not always supply the desired information. According to the last estimate of the Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines, dated March 1877, the number in the Colony was then 1,067, viz., 633 males and 434 females.

Gold mining population.

21. The compilation of the census returns is not sufficiently far advanced to admit of the population living on the goldfields being separated from the general population, nor of the number of gold miners being ascertained. At the census of 1871 the population on the goldfields was found to be 270,428, and the number of gold miners 52,425, but since then it is known that the latter have much decreased. An estimate of the number of miners, distinguishing

VICTORIA.

Europeans from Chinese, and those engaged in alluvial workings from those engaged on quartz reefs, is each year made by the Mining Department. The following is the result of that estimate at the end of 1880:—

Number of Gold Miners, 1880.

Alluvial miners	-	22,916	European miners	-	30,082
Quartz miners	-	15,652	Chinese miners	-	8,486
Total -	-	38,568	Total -	-	38,568

Gold miners, 1869 to 1880.

22. According to this estimate, the total number of persons engaged in searching for or raising gold at the end of 1880 was greater than in any year since 1876. The followers of this occupation were, until 1878, falling off in numbers; but since then there has been a slight revival, as will be seen by the following figures, which show the estimated number at the end of each of the last 12 years.

Number of Gold Miners, 1869 *to* 1880.

1869	-	-	-	-	63,787
1870	-	-	-	-	59,247
1871	-	-	-	-	58,279
1872	-	-	-	-	52,965
1873	-	-	-	-	50,595
1874	-	-	-	-	45,151
1875	-	-	-	-	41,717
1876	-	-	-	-	41,010
1877	-	-	-	-	38,005
1878	-	-	-	-	36,636
1879	-	-	-	-	37,553
1880	-	-	-	-	38,568

Houses, 1871 and 1881.

23. The dwellings returned at the census numbered in all 179,925, of which 167,091 were houses in occupation, 9,056 houses not in occupation, and 681 houses in course of erection; 466 were inhabited stores, offices, and public buildings, and 2,631 were tents. At the previous census the total number of dwellings returned was 158,481, so that the increase between the censuses was 21,444, or about 13½ per cent. At both censuses account was only taken of buildings in which persons slept, or which were intended for residences, therefore churches, public buildings, stores, &c., without resident caretakers, were not returned on either occasion.

Area of Australasian colonies.

24. The area of the Australian continent is estimated to be somewhat under 3,000,000 square miles, but that area, added to the areas of Tasmania and New Zealand, amounts to nearly 3,100,000 square miles. The following are the areas of the different Colonies, all of which, except the area of New Zealand, particulars of which have been furnished by the Government of

that Colony, have been carefully computed by the Surveyor-General of Victoria, Mr. A. J. Skene, from the map of continental Australia recently compiled and engraved under his direction, the calculations being based on latitude and longitude and the generally accepted figure of the earth :—

Area of Australasian Colonies.

	Square Miles.
Victoria - - - -	87,884
New South Wales - -	309,175
Queensland - - -	667,615
South Australia - - -	903,425
Western Australia - -	975,920
Total Australia -	2,944,019
Tasmania - - -	26,375
New Zealand - - -	105,342
Total Australasia -	3,075,736

Area of Victoria and other colonies.

25. It will be noticed that Victoria is by far the smallest Colony on the Australian continent, and the smallest of the group except Tasmania. If the whole continent were to be divided into 100 equal parts, the area of Victoria would embrace three such parts, that of New South Wales 10, that of Queensland 23, that of South Australia 30, and that of Western Australia 34. Victoria is thus less than a third of the size of New South Wales, little more than an eighth of that of Queensland, about a tenth of that of South Australia, and less than an eleventh of that of Western Australia.

Population of Australia and Australasia.

26. At the end of 1879 there were on the continent of Australia about 2,100,000 inhabitants; and in Australasian, including not only the continental Colonies, but also Tasmania and New Zealand, there were about 2,700,000. More than two fifths of the inhabitants of Australia, and about a third of the inhabitants of the Australasian group, are living in Victoria.

Australasia compared with other British possessions.

27. The Australasian Colonies occupy nearly two fifths, and Victoria a ninetieth, of the whole area of the British dominions. The Australasian Colonies contain over a ninetieth, and Victoria more than a two hundred and eightieth, of the population of the whole British Empire. The area of Australasia is somewhat smaller than that of Canada, which is the largest British possession; but the population of Canada exceeds that of Australasia by about a million. The population of Victoria is exceeded by that of no British dependency, except India, Canada, Ceylon, and the Cape of Good Hope.

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Immigration and emigration, 1880.

28. The arrivals and departures by sea during 1880, also the excess of the former over the latter, were as follows:—

Immigration and Emigration, 1880.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Arrivals by sea - -	40,631	16,324	56,955
Departures by sea - - -	31,857	13,437	45,294
Excess of arrivals - -	8,774	2,887	11,661

Arrivals and departures, 1880 and former years.

29. Owing, doubtless, to the fact that numbers of visitors were attracted to Victoria by the Melbourne International Exhibition, which was opened on the 1st October, the arrivals by sea were more numerous in 1880 than in any other year since 1857. That numbers of these also left is proved by the fact that the departures by sea were more numerous than in any other year since the Colony was founded. That numbers, however, had not left when the year expired, unless they went away by land, is proved by the circumstance that the arrivals in the year exceeded the departures by a larger number than they had in any year since 1864. This will be seen by the following figures, which show the difference between the immigration and the emigration in the 21 years ended with 1880:—

Excess of Arrivals over Departures (by sea) 1860 *to* 1880.

1860 - -	7,348	1871 - -	8,382
1861 - -	—8,986	1872 - -	1,752
1862 - -	—367	1873 - -	3,166
1863 - -	4,183	1874 - -	3,367
1864 - -	14,377	1875 - -	3,402
1865 - -	5,684	1876 - -	3,820
1866 - -	4,549	1877 - -	7,253
1867 - -	2,100	1878 - -	4,776
1868 - -	7,253	1879 - -	5,172
1869 - -	11,152	1880 - -	11,661
1870 - -	11,467		

Note.—The minus sign (—) indicates that the departures exceeded the arrivals by the number against which it is placed.

Net gain by immigration in 21 years.

30. It will be observed that the arrivals exceeded the departures in all the years except 1861 and 1862, in which the excess of departures resulted in a loss of 9,353 persons, deducting these from the gains in the other years, viz., 120,864, a balance is left in favour of the Colony amounting to 111,511.

State-assisted immigration.

31. In the 10 years, 1871 to 1880, 5,545 immigrants from the United Kingdom have had free or partially free passages granted them to Victoria. Of these, 3,212, or 58 per cent., arrived in the first year, and 5,168, or 93 per cent., in the first three years of

the decenniad. The number has declined rapidly from year to year, and since 1873 only 377 such immigrants have arrived. Of these, only 5, all females, came in 1880, so that State-assisted Immigration to this Colony may be said to have virtually ceased.

Chinese immigration.

32. The Chinese Immigrants included in the returns of 1880 numbered 947, or 128 more than in the previous year, and included 11 females. The number of Chinese emigrants during 1880 of which there is any record is 114, all of whom were males; but this does not include those departing in steamers to the Colonies of New South Wales, Tasmania, and South Australia, consequently, this number, probably to a great extent, understates the truth.

Municipalities.

33. Municipalities in Victoria are of two kinds, the first being called cities, towns, and boroughs, and the second shires. The former number 57 and the latter 117. The following is a statement of the total and annual value of rateable property, and total revenue in each of these descriptions of municipalities during the year 1880:—

Municipalities, 1880.

Description of Municipality.	Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
	Total.	Annual.	
	£	£	£
Cities, town, and boroughs	31,199,483	3,134,948	416,765
Shires - - -	52,647,936	3,982,998	405,187
Total - -	83,847,419	7,117,946	821,952

Area of municipalities.

34. The total area included in the two descriptions of municipalities is as follows:—

Estimated Area embraced in Municipalities, 1880.

	Square Miles.
Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	- 342
Shires - - - - -	81,839
Total - -	82,181

Proportion to total area of Victoria.

35. The estimated area of Victoria is 87,884 square miles. It thus appears that more than nine-tenths of this area is included within the limits of municipal districts.

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Population of municipalities.

36. The population of the two kinds of districts was as follows, according to the census of 1881 :—

Estimated Population of Municipalities, 1881.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - - -	434,450
Shires - - - - -	419,907
Total - - -	854,357

Proportion to population of Victoria.

37. It has been already stated that the population of Victoria, as returned at the recent census, was 862,346. It therefore follows that ninety-nine hundredths of the inhabitants of the Colony enjoy the advantages of local self-government.

Ratepayers in municipalities.

38. The ratepayers in the two kinds of municipal districts numbered as follow in 1880:—

Ratepayers in Municipalities, 1880.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - - -	95,978
Shires - - - - -	98,967
Total - - -	194,945

Proportion of ratepayers to population.

39. By comparing these figures, with those showing the enumerated municipal population, it appears that about one person in every 4·4 persons living in municipalities is a ratepayer.

Dwellings in municipalities.

40. The following is a statement of the number of dwellings in the two kinds of municipal districts as returned at the census :—

Dwellings in Municipalities, 1881.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - - -	87,995
Shires - - - - -	90,782
Total - - -	178,777

Proportion of dwellings in municipalities.

41. The dwellings in the Colony were returned as 179,925. Thus the whole of these, except 1,148, were situated in municipal districts.

Ratings.

42. Of the cities, towns, and boroughs, 39 per cent. in 1880 were rated at 1*s.* in the pound ; and of the shires, 88 per cent. were rated at that amount. Six municipal districts were rated at less than 1*s.* in the pound; and 43 were rated at over that amount.

Naturalization.

43. Ninety-six persons were naturalized in 1880, of whom 19 were farmers or gardeners, 22 miners, 6 carpenters, and 7 other artisans and mechanics, 7 publicans, 10 traders, 4 dealers in food, 3 bootmakers and tailors, 2 agents, 2 labourers; 1 was a grazier, 1 musician, 1 teacher, 1 doctor, 1 missionary, 1 civil engineer, and 8 were of other occupations.

Number of electoral districts and members.

44. By the Electoral Act Amendment Act, 1876 (40 Vict., No. 548), the number of electoral districts for the Legislative Assembly was increased from 49 to 55, and the number of members thereof from 78 to 86. And by the Legislative Council Act, 1881, of the royal assent to which information was received in the Colony by telegram on the 29th August 1881, the number of provinces for the Legislative Council was increased from 6 to 14; and the number of members of that House from 30 to 42, the property qualification of such members was reduced from an annual value of 250*l.* to one of 100*l.*, and the tenure of their seats from ten years to six; the qualification of the electors to the Council was reduced from an annual value of 50*l.* to one of 10*l.* if derived from freehold, or of 25*l.* if from leasehold property. With the exception of these changes, and a few minor details provided for in the Acts named, the electoral system of Victoria is the same as that described in the *Victorian Year Book*, 1874.*

Members to each district.

45. Of the present electoral districts for the Legislative Assembly, 5 are represented by 3 members, 21 by 2 members, and 29 by 1 member.

Electors on the rolls.

46. The number of electors on the rolls of both Houses of the Legislature, in April 1880 and March 1881, is shown in the following table. An increase appears in the electors for both Houses, but chiefly in non-ratepaying electors for the Legislative Assembly.

Electors on the Rolls, 1880 *and* 1881.

Description of Roll.	Legislative Council.†		Legislative Assembly.	
	30th April 1880.	21st March 1881.	30th April 1880.	31st March 1881.
Ratepayers - - -	30,694	31,027	160,359	161,707
General - - - -	2,078	2,078	40,342	45,410
Total - - -	32,772	33,105	200,701	207,117

Proportion of electors and members to population.

47. At the time of the last general election, two in every five males in the Colony were electors. The proportion of members to the total population was one to every 9,864.

Representation to population, Victoria and United Kingdom compared.

48. If Victoria were to be represented according to population in the same proportion as the United Kingdom, she would, instead of sending 86 members to Parliament, return only 16; if in the same proportion as England, she would also return 16; if in the same proportion as Ireland, about 19; and if in the same proportion as Scotland, 14.

* Paragraphs 262 to 270.

† Under the Legislative Council Act, 1881, it is estimated that the electors of this House will be increased to 110,000.

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Marriages, 1880.

49. The marriages celebrated in Victoria during 1880 numbered 5,286, as against 4,986 in the previous year. The excess in favour of 1880 was thus 300.

Births, 1880.

50. The births registered in the same year number 26,148, as against 26,839 in 1879. The decrease in the year under review, as compared with the previous one, was thus 691.

Deaths, 1880.

51. The deaths in 1880 numbered 11,652, as against 12,120 in 1879. The decrease in the year under notice was thus 468.

Excess of births over deaths.

52. The births in 1880 exceeded the deaths by 14,496, or 124 per cent., as against 121 per cent. in 1879. In the eleven years ended with 1880 the proportion was 122 per cent.

Marriages, birth, and death rates.

53. In the year under review the marriages were in the proportion of 6·22, the births of 30·75, and the deaths of 13·70, to every 1,000 of the living population.

Imports, exports, and trade, 1880.

54. The total declared value of the imports in 1880 was 14,556,894*l.*, and that of the exports 15,954,559*l.*, the whole value of the external trade of the Colony was thus 30,511,453*l.*

Exports in excess of imports.

55. It will be observed that the exports exceeded the imports. Such a circumstance had only happened in Victoria nine times in the previous twenty-eight years. The excess of exports on this occasion amounted to 1,397,665*l.*

Imports and exports, 1879 and 1880 compared.

56. The value of imports was less in 1880 than in the previous year by 478,644*l.*; but the value of exports was greater by 3,500,389*l.* It should be pointed out, however, that the value of both imports and exports—more especially the latter—was exceptionally low in 1879.

Imports and exports, 1880 and former years.

57. The imports in 1880, as indicated by the values, were lower than in any other year since 1872. For some years prior to 1872 the import trade, so gauged, had been stagnant, but in that and the two subsequent years a marked improvement was recorded, which was sustained with more or less regularity until 1879, when a falling off took place, followed by a still further decline in the year under review. The value of exports in 1880, on the other hand, was greater than in any previous year; but 1879 was a year in which the exports were exceptionally low, and the average of the two years shows a slight falling off as compared with preceding years. It should be borne in mind, however, that the values do not always measure the quantities imported and exported, as the increase or decline in the former may be due partly, if not altogether, to fluctuations in the prices of commodities.

Imports and exports per head.

58. In 1880, the value of the imports per head of the population was less by 18*s.* 2*d.* than it was in 1879, and less also than in any year since 1851, except 1871, the former being the year in which Victoria became an independent Colony. The value per head of the exports, however, exceeded by 3*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* that in 1879, and also exceeded the value in 1878, 1877, 1876, 1872, and 1870, but in no other year since 1851. The value per head of the external trade, as measured by the sum of the imports and exports, exceeded by 2*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* that in 1879, but was lower than in any other year since 1851, except 1870. The following table shows the value of imports and exports per head in each year, com-

mencing with that in which Victoria was separated from New South Wales:—

Imports and Exports per Head, 1851 *to* 1880.

Year.	Value per Head of the Population of.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Both.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851 - -	12 3 4	16 7 9	28 11 1
1852 - -	30 12 5	56 1 4	86 13 9
1853 - -	81 1 9	56 12 4	137 14 1
1854 - -	66 0 11	44 0 10	110 1 9
1855 - -	35 9 10	39 17 8	75 7 6
1856 - -	39 5 6	40 13 3	79 18 9
1857 - -	40 2 0	35 0 10	75 2 10
1858 - -	31 4 6	28 18 3	60 2 9
1859 - -	30 4 1	26 16 3	57 0 4
1860 - -	28 5 3	22 5 5	50 10 8
1861 - -	25 1 4	25 12 5	50 13 9
1862 - -	24 12 2	23 15 7	48 7 9
1863 - -	25 1 6	24 1 11	49 3 5
1864 - -	25 10 8	23 13 11	49 4 7
1865 - -	21 13 9	21 10 3	43 4 0
1866 - -	23 9 7	20 9 9	43 19 4
1867 - -	18 2 4	19 15 0	37 17 4
1868 - -	20 1 9	23 10 4	43 12 1
1869 - -	20 4 11	19 11 10	39 16 9
1870 - -	17 9 3	17 9 8	34 18 11
1871 - -	16 14 11	19 15 1	36 10 0
1872 - -	18 3 6	18 8 4	36 11 10
1873 - -	21 12 0	19 19 10	41 11 10
1874 - -	21 16 0	19 17 2	41 13 2
1875 - -	21 3 11	18 15 1	39 19 0
1876 - -	19 14 4	17 16 6	37 10 10
1877 - -	20 4 9	18 14 11	38 19 8
1878 - -	19 13 6	18 3 5	37 16 11
1879 - -	18 0 7	14 18 8	32 19 3
1880 - -	17 2 5	18 15 3	35 17 8

Imports and exports, the produce of various countries.

59. The value of the imports into Victoria of articles entered as being the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, of other British Dominions, and of Foreign States, and the value of the exports from Victoria of articles entered as the produce or manufacture of the same countries and of the Colony itself, also the per-centage of such values to the total value of imports and exports in 1880, will be found in the following table:—

Imports and Exports, the Produce of different Countries, 1880.

Articles, the Produce or Manufacture of	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
Victoria - - -	13,518*	·09	11,220,467	70·33
The United Kingdom -	5,654,888	38·84	1,275,904	8·00
Other British Possessions -	6,779,988	46·58	2,747,421	17·22
Foreign States - -	2,108,500	14·49	710,767	4·45
Total - -	14,556,894	100·00	15,954,559	100·00

* Victorian exhibits returned from Sydney.

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Exports of Victorian produce.

60. It will be observed that 70 per cent. of the exports were set down as the produce or manufacture of Victoria. This is a higher proportion than that which prevailed in 1879, but a smaller one than in any other year since 1866, as will be seen by the following table, which gives the total value and value per head of articles of Victorian produce exported, and their proportion to the total exports, in each of the 14 years ended with 1880 :—

Exports of Victorian Produce, 1867 *to* 1880.

Year.	Exports of Articles produced or manufactured in Victoria.		
	Total Value.	Value per Head of the Population.	Per-centage of Total Exports.
	£	£ s. d.	
1867 - -	9,972,333	15 9 6¾	78·37
1868 - -	11,697,893	17 12 9¾	75·02
1869 - -	9,539,816	13 17 7¾	70·85
1870 - -	9,103,323	12 15 3½	73·00
1871 - -	11,151,622	15 2 7½	76·60
1872 - -	10,758,658	14 5 8¼	77·56
1873 - -	11,876,707	15 10 3¾	77·61
1874 - -	11,352,515	14 12 0	73·52
1875 - -	10,571,806	13 8 6½	71·59
1876 - -	10,155,916	12 15 0	71·54
1877 - -	11,269,086	13 18 8¾	74·35
1878 - -	10,676,499	12 19 11½	71·53
1879 - -	8,069,857	9 13 6¼	64·80
1880 - -	11,220,467	13 3 10¾	70·33

Increase of exports of Victorian products, 1880.

61. It should be pointed out that the returns of articles set down as produced or manufactured in Victoria are not always reliable, there being no other evidence as to the origin of such articles than the statements of the shippers, which, it is known, are sometimes made very loosely. According to the table, the export trade of local productions had entirely recovered in 1880 from the depression which prevailed in 1879, over 3,000,000*l.* sterling out of the 3,500,000*l.* by which the total exports had increased being due to locally-produced articles.

Trade with various countries, 1880.

62. In 1880, two-fifths of the Victorian imports, according to value, were from, and nearly three-fifths of the exports were to, the United Kingdom. Forty-three per cent. of the former, and 29 per cent. of the latter, were conveyed between Victoria and the neighbouring Colonies, chiefly New South Wales. Over 12 per cent. of the exports were to countries grouped under the head of "Other British Possessions," the articles being chiefly gold and specie sent to Ceylon, intended generally, no doubt, for further shipment to the United Kingdom. The value of the imports from and the exports to the different countries, and the per-centage of such

values to the total imports and exports, are given in the following table:—

Imports from and Exports to different Countries, 1880.

Countries.	Imports therefrom.		Exports thereto.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
The United Kingdom - -	5,892,834	40·48	9,249,873	57·98
New South Wales - -	4,856,893	33·37	2,192,511	13·74
Queensland - - -	32,731	·23	22,091	·14
South Australia - - -	282,538	1·94	869,140	5·44
Western Australia - -	8,243	·06	71,416	·45
Tasmania - - - -	341,951	2·35	647,603	4·06
New Zealand - - -	777,241	5·34	765,221	4·80
Other British Possessions -	1,042,891	7·16	1,965,171	12·32
The United States - -	362,844	2·49	83,155	·52
Other Foreign States - -	958,728	6·58	88,378	·55
Total - -	14,556,894	100·00	15,954,559	100·00

63. The next table shows the value of the Victorian imports from and exports to the same countries in 1880 and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquenniads:—

Trade with various countries at three periods.

Imports from and Exports to different Countries, 1870, 1875, *and* 1880.

Countries.	Imports therefrom.			Exports thereto.		
	1870.	1875.	1880.	1870.	1875.	1880.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
The United Kingdom	6,198,805	7,809,285	5,892,834	6,205,455	6,980,983	9,249,873
New South Wales -	1,387,687	4,209,820	4,856,893	671,104	1,551,608	2,192,511
Queensland - -	5,707	106,146	32,731	41,787	95,115	22,091
South Australia -	205,278	231,521	282,538	153,252	481,650	869,140
Western Australia -	1,692	4,756	8,243	37,895	59,360	71,416
Tasmania - -	247,127	275,118	341,951	329,676	386,589	647,603
New Zealand -	1,691,941	1,062,238	777,241	755,581	1,051,341	765,221
Other British Possessions.	1,346,023	1,160,089	1,042,891	4,253,014	4,007,043	1,965,171
The United States -	377,934	353,141	362,844	2,377	103,041	83,155
Other Foreign States	993,564	1,473,760	958,728	19,873	50,244	88,378
Total -	12,455,758	16,685,874	14,556,894	12,470,014	14,766,974	15,954,559

64. In 1880, 74 per cent. of the imports were landed, and 86 per cent. of the exports were shipped at the port of Melbourne. A fourth of the imports entered the Colony at the Murray ports, but only about one-eighteenth of the exports were sent away therefrom. The chief of these ports is Echuca, at which over 17 per cent. of the total imports were landed. The only important port of shipment in Victoria except Melbourne is Geelong, from which, in 1880, 7 per cent. of the total exports were sent

Imports and exports at each port.

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away. The following table gives the names of the various ports and the value and per-centage of the goods imported and exported at each during that year :—

Imports and Exports at each Port, 1880.

Ports.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
Melbourne - -	10,817,013	74·31	13,760,108	86·25
Geelong - - -	126,549	·89	1,150,350	7·22
Portland - - -	691	·00	130,780	·82
Belfast - - -	791	·01	2,507	·02
Warrnambool - -	16,529	·11	24,392	·15
Port Albert - -	848	·01	—	—
Murray ports:				
Cowana - -	1,504	·01	34,553	·22
Echuca - -	2,502,750	17·13	231,574	1·45
Narung - -	20,778	·15	590	·00
Swan Hill - -	68,394	·47	11,909	·08
Tocumwall - -	21,105	·15	235	·00
Wahgunyah - -	536,937	3·70	30,130	·18
Wodonga - -	360,437	2·48	119,761	·75
Howlong - -	12,567	·09	6,854	·04
Yarrawonga - -	4,459	·04	119	·00
Ports unspecified -	—	—	450,697	2·82
At Stations, Delegate, &c.	65,542	·45	—	—
Total - -	14,556,894	100·00	15,954,559	100·00

Imports of principal articles.

65. The values of 59 of the principal articles imported in 1880 are shown in the following table:—

Imports of Principal Articles, 1880.

	£
Apparel and slops - - - -	245,811
Bags and sacks (including woolpacks) -	122,736
Beer, cider, and perry - - -	168,549
Books - - - - -	164,386
Boots and shoes - - - -	100,941
Butter and cheese - - - -	904
Candles - - - - -	23,493
Carpeting and druggeting - - -	45,573
Coals - - - - -	306,966
Coffee - - - - -	65,216
Cottons - - - - -	673,678
Cutlery - - - - -	19,839
Drugs and chemicals - - -	47,785
Earthenware, brownware, and chinaware -	47,414
Fancy goods - - - -	29,545
Fish - - - - -	34,655

	£
Flour (including biscuits) - - -	8,539
Fruit (including currants and raisins) -	146,853
Furniture and upholstery - - -	30,616
Glass and glassware - - -	56,973
Gloves - - - - -	60,558
Gold (exclusive of specie) - - -	878,820
Gold specie - - - -	10,015
Grain, oats - - - -	24,029
„ wheat - - - -	24,522
„ other (including malt and rice) -	247,240
Haberdashery - - - -	224,657
Hardware and ironmongery - -	76,680
Hats, caps, and bonnets - - -	95,295
Hides, skins, and pelts - - -	75,210
Hops - - - - -	37,855
Hosiery - - - - -	90,923
Iron and steel (exclusive of railway rails, telegraph wire, &c.) - -	465,826
Jewellery - - - - -	53,237
Leather, leatherware, and leather cloth -	136,550
Linen piece goods - - - -	32,896
Live stock - - - - -	880,330
Machinery - - - -	60,488
Matches and vestas - - -	33,660
Meats, fresh, preserved, and salted - -	10,453
Millinery - - - - -	—
Musical instruments - - -	53,210
Nails and screws - - - -	34,827
Oil of all kinds - - - -	199,361
Oilmen's stores - - - -	13,726
Opium - - - - -	94,962
Paints and colours - - - -	54,375
Paper (including paper bags) - -	149,605
Silks - - - - -	195,761
Spirits - - - - -	335,687
Stationery - - - -	53,623
Sugar and molasses - - -	1,039,065
Tea - - - - -	583,490
Timber - - - - -	261,805
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff - - -	156,927
Tools and utensils - - - -	33,073
Watches, clocks, and watchmakers' materials	48,123
Wine - - - - -	97,582
Wool - - - - -	2,977,264
Woollens and woollen piece goods - -	645,543
All other articles - - - -	1,619,169
Total imports -	14,556,894

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Exports of principal articles.

66. The values of 39 of the principal articles exported in 1880 are shown in the following table:—

Exports of Principal Articles, 1880.

	£
Antimony—ore, regulus, &c.	14,295
Apparel and slops	246,566
Bark	31,148
Bones and bonedust	17,168
Books	64,007
Boots and shoes	122,142
Butter and cheese	82,490
Candles	19,540
Coffee	24,666
Flour and biscuit	283,822
Gold (exclusive of specie)	967,924
Grain, oats	11,091
„ wheat	603,158
„ other (including malt and rice)	95,437
Hardware and ironmongery	67,688
Hay, straw, and chaff	52,900
Hides	9,953
Horns and hoofs	3,314
Leather and leatherware	321,565
Live stock	340,426
Machinery	100,222
Meats, fresh and preserved	159,421
„ salted	12,160
Oil of all kinds	72 537
Potatoes	58,307
Skins and pelts	88,139
Soap	12,172
Specie, gold	2,919,610
„ silver	50,000
Spirits	131,899
Stationery	40,040
Sugar	248,260
Tallow	192,394
Tea	258,079
Tin, tin ore, and black sand	2,796
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff	156,977
Wine	42,528
Wool	6,417,466
Woollens and woollen piece goods	91,332
All other articles	1,520,920
Total exports	15,954,559

Increased export of certain articles in 1880.

67. Of the total increase in the exports of 1880, as compared with those of 1879, which amounted, as has been already said, to

three and a half millions sterling, 91 per cent., or three and one fifth millions, was in breadstuffs, leather, tallow, wool, and gold. The exports of these articles in the two years, also the total exports, are compared in the following table:—

Increased Export of certain Articles in 1880.

Articles.	Exports, 1879.	Exports, 1880.	Increase, 1880.
	£	£	£
Flour and biscuit	140,124	283,822	143,698
Wheat	132,314	603,158	470,844
Leather and leatherware	241,766	321,565	79,799
Tallow	150,867	192,394	41,527
Wool	5,269,634	6,417,466	1,147,832
Gold (including specie)	2,577,421	3,887,534	1,310,113
Total of articles named	8,512,126	11,705,939	3,193,813
Total exports	12,454,170	15,954,559	3,500,389

Customs revenue.

68. The customs revenue in 1880 only differed from that in 1879 by 5,000*l.*, the excess being in favour of the year under review. Under most of the heads there was a remarkable similarity in the amounts received in the two years. A falling off of 19,000*l.* took place under the head of "Import Duties," but an increase of 8,000*l.* in the receipts from the excise duty on spirits, new sources of revenue, viz., duties on the manufacture of beer and tobacco, and licenses for the sale of tobacco, produced 17,000*l.* The following are the amounts received under the different heads in the two years:—

Customs Revenue, 1879 *and* 1880.

Heads of Revenue.	Year ended 31st December.	
	1879.	1880.
	£	£
Import duties	1,436,343	1,417,546
Wharfage and harbour rates	25,260	24,204
Duties on spirits distilled in Victoria	38,070	46,388
Duty on beer manufacured in Victoria	—	14,680
Duty on tobacco, cigars, and snuff manufactured in Victoria	—	1,482
Licenses to sell and manufacture tobacco	—	553
Ports and harbours	19,706	19,125
Fees	6,892	7,446
Fines and forfeitures	238	474
Miscellaneous	9,233	8,552
Total	1,535,742	1,540,650

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Taxation on imports.

69. The import duties received amounted to 9¾ per cent. of the total value of imports in 1880, and to 9½ per cent. in 1879.

Vessels inwards and outwards.

70. Partly, no doubt, owing to the increased number of large steamers trading to Melbourne, the tonnage of vessels entering and leaving Victorian ports was greater in 1880 than in any former year; but these seem to have to a certain extent supplanted smaller vessels, as the number of vessels both in 1879 and 1880 was less than in any year since 1868. The following table contains a statement of the number, tonnage, and crews of vessels inwards and outwards during the 13 years ended with 1880:—

Vessels entered and cleared, 1868 *to* 1880.

Year.	Vessels entered.			Vessels cleared,			Total entered and cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.
1868	2,067	653,362	33,613	2,172	685,207	35,332	4,239	1,338,569
1869	2,320	721,274	35,628	2,334	730,961	35,696	4,654	1,452,235
1870	2,093	663,764	32,838	2,187	681,098	33,836	4,280	1,344,862
1871	2,137	663,002	33,789	2,257	692,023	35,050	4,394	1,355,025
1872	2,104	666,336	33,551	2,234	694,426	35,353	4,338	1,360,762
1873	2,187	756,103	36,307	2,226	762,912	36,216	4,413	1,519,015
1874	2,100	777,110	36,834	2,122	792,509	36,472	4,222	1,569,619
1875	2,171	840,386	38,681	2,223	833,499	38,454	4,394	1,673,885
1876	2,086	810,062	38,960	2,150	847,026	39,600	4,236	1,657,088
1877	2,192	939,661	43,928	2,219	935,324	43,786	4,411	1,874,985
1878	2,119	951,750	43,082	2,173	961,677	43,391	4,292	1,913,427
1879	2,084	963,087	43,676	2,083	977,135	43,648	4,167	1,940,222
1880	2,076	1,078,885	51,585	2,115	1,101,014	52,153	4191	2,179,899

Nationality vessels.

71. Of the vessels inwards and outwards during 1880, 84 per cent., embracing 59 per cent. of the tonnage, were Colonial; 13 per cent., embracing 36 per cent. of the tonnage were British; and 3 per cent., embracing 5 per cent. of the tonnage, were Foreign. Of the crews entering and leaving Victorian ports in 1880, 62 per cent. were attached to Colonial, 34 per cent. to British, and 4 per cent. to Foreign vessels. The following are the figures from which these proportions have been derived:—

Nationality of Vessels entered and cleared, 1880.

Nationality.	Vessels entered.			Vessels cleared.		
	Number.	Tons.	Men.	Number.	Tons.	Men.
Colonial - -	1,743	636,076	32,077	1,771	643,495	32,409
British - -	260	388,295	17,721	271	403,563	17,957
Foreign - -	73	54,514	1,787	73	53,956	1,787
Total -	2,076	1,078,885	51,585	2,115	1,101,014	52,153

72. In the same year, 71 per cent. of the vessels inwards, embracing 88 per cent. of the tonnage, were entered at Melbourne, and 69 per cent. of the vessels outwards, embracing 86 per cent. of the tonnage, were cleared at the same port. Next to Melbourne the largest number of vessels, with the largest amount of tonnage, were entered and cleared at Echuca, on the River Murray. After Echuca, most ships were entered and cleared at Swan Hill, but the largest amount of tonnage at Geelong. The following table shows the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at each port in Victoria during the year:— Vessels at each port.

Shipping at each Port, 1880.

Ports.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Melbourne - -	1,482	955,593	1,470	945,723
Geelong - - -	80	26,974	91	38,082
Portland - - -	43	14,262	51	18,714
Belfast - - -	12	1,619	14	3,410
Port Albert - -	6	545	4	393
Warrnambool - -	25	7,485	58	22,399
Murray Ports—				
Wahgunyah - -	4	457	4	457
Echuca - -	230	46,859	229	46,745
Swan Hill - -	124	17,122	124	17,122
Cowana - -	70	7,969	70	7,969
Total - -	2,076	1,078,885	2,115	1,101,014

73. Only four vessels were built in Victoria during 1880. These were all small, their average burden being no more than 51 tons. The vessels registered numbered 18, of the average burden of 435 tons. The following were the classes and sizes of the vessels:— Vessels built and registered.

Vessels built and registered, 1880.

Vessels built.			Vessels registered.			
Description.	No.	Tons.	Description.	No.	Tons.	Men.
Dredge - -	1	42	Barques - -	7	5,212	108
Ketch - -	1	66	Brigs - -	1	291	9
Steamer -	2	97	Dredges - -	1	42	7
			Ketches - -	3	79	9
			Schooners - -	1	27	3
			Steamers - -	5	2,177	81
	4	205		18	7,828	217

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Vessels on the register.

74. The vessels on the register at the end of 1880 numbered 339, viz., 85 steamers and 254 sailing vessels. The former in the aggregate measured 15,558 tons and carried 1,003 men, and the latter measured 45,655 tons, and carried 1,654 men.

Postal returns.

75. The following figures show the number of post offices throughout the Colony, and the number of letters, packets, and newspapers which passed through them in the last two years. An increase is to be observed in all the items:—

Postal Returns, 1879 *and* 1880.

Year.	Number of Post Offices.	Number despatched and received of			
		Letters.*	Newspapers.	Packets.	Total.
1879 -	1,069	23,215,648	10,075,407	3,091,364	36,382,419
1880 -	1,100	24,195,149	10,640,540	3,558,480	38,394,169
Increase -	31	979,501	565,133	467,116	2,011,750

Proportion of Letters, &c. to population.

76. The letters depatched and received were, to each head of the population, in the proportion of 27·8 in 1879, and of 28·6 in 1880.

Money orders.

77. Money order offices in Victoria in connexion with the Post Office had been established in 288 places up to the end of 1880. Besides the issue and payment of money orders at these places, such orders are issued in favour of Victoria, and Victorian orders are paid at places in Great Britain and Ireland, and in the various Australasian Colonies. The following is a comparative statement of the business in the last two years. A satisfactory increase will be observed in all the items —

Money Orders, 1879 *and* 1880.

Year.	Number of Money Order Offices.	Money Orders issued.		Money Orders paid.	
		Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
			£		£
1879 -	273	138,517	398,019	150,525	453,723
1880 -	288	151,677	423,313	166,022	485,888
Increase -	15	13,160	25,294	15,497	32,165

Average value of money orders.

78. The average amount for which money orders were issued during the two years named in the table was 2*l.* 16*s.* 7¼*d.*, the average amount for which money orders were paid was 2*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*

Electric telegraphs.

79. Telegraphic communication exists in Victoria between 287 stations within her own borders. Her lines are connected besides with the lines of New South Wales, and, by means of them, with Queensland and New Zealand. They are also connected with

* Including post cards. These were first issued on the 1st April 1876. The number issued in 1880 was 1,085,015 as against 851,214 in 1879.

the lines of South Australia, and by their means, with the Eastern Archipelago, Asia, Europe, and America, They are likewise united with a submarine cable to Tasmania. During 1880 the lines were extended by 60 miles, and the length of wire was added to by 283 miles; a substantial increase also occurred in the number of paid telegrams, and in the amount received. The number of stations, the length of lines and wire, and the amount of business done in the last two years are given in the following table:—

Electric Telegraphs, 1879 *and* 1880

Year.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of	
		Line (poles).	Wire.
1879 - - -	257	3,155	5,736
1880 - - -	287	3,215	6,019
Increase -	30	60	283

Year.	Number of Telegrams.		
	Paid.	Unpaid.	Total.
1879 - - - - -	725,799	284,317	1,010,116
1880 - - - -	812,466	348,446	1,160,912
Increase - - -	86,667	64,129	150,796

Telegrams to and from Europe.

80. During 1880, the number of telegrams which passed from Victoria to Europe and the East, and *vice versâ*, was, 9,503, and the cost to the senders was 71,305*l.* Taking the Australasian Colonies as a whole, the telegrams to and from the same places numbered 27,609, and were transmitted at a charge of 181,481*l.*

Time of a telegram sent to Her Majesty.

81. It may be interesting to know that, on the 1st of October 1880, a special message from the Governor of this Colony to Queen Victoria, announcing the opening of the Melbourne International Exhibition, and consisting of 78 words, was sent from Melbourne to Balmoral, in Scotland, in 23 minutes, including all stoppages.

Excess of expenditure over revenue.

82. The total expenditure of the post and telegraph department exceeded the revenue by 97,474*l.*, or 38 per cent., in 1879, and by 117,764*l.*, or 44 per cent., in 1880.

Railways: length, gauge, &c.

83. All the railways in Victoria belong to the State. The number of miles open at the end of 1880 was 1,199; consisting of 1,024¾ miles of single and 174¼ of double line. All the Victorian lines are constructed upon a gauge of 5 ft. 3 in. The

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following figures show the names, lengths, and cost of construction of the different lines, and the distance travelled during 1880:—

Names of Lines.	Length open on 31st December 1880.			Cost of Construction.		Distrance travelled in the Year.
	Single Lines.	Double Lines.	Total.	Total.	Average per Mile.	
NORTHERN SYSTEM.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	£	£	Train Miles.
Main Line, Melbourne to Sandhurst -	—	100¾	100¾	5,161,884	51,235	
Main Line, Sandhurst to Echuca -	55¼	—	55¼	610,563	11,051	
Castlemaine and Dunolly Line -	47½	—	47½	287,348	6,049	
Ballarat and Maryborough Line -	42½	—	42½	255,388	6,009	
Maryborough and Avoca Line -	15	—	15	60,279	4,018	1,325,001
Sandhurst and Inglewood Line -	30	—	30	151,159	5,039	
Dunolly and St. Arnaud Line -	33	—	33	153,112	4,640	
Carlsruhe and Daylesford Line - -	22¼	—	22¼	127,910	5,749	
Total Northern System - -	245½	100¾	346¼	6,807,643	19,661	
WESTERN SYSTEM.						
Williamstown Line -	—	6	6	413,774	68,962	
Geelong Line (including line to wharf)	37¼	1¾	39	1,056,796	27,097	
Ballarat Line	—	53½	53½	1,726,266	32,267	
Ballarat and Ararat Line - -	57	—	57	311,869	5,471	
Ararat and Stawell Line - -	18¾	—	18¾	112,266	5,988	
Ararat and Hamilton Line - -	66½	—	—	307,029	4,617	
Geelong and Colac Line (including Racecourse Branch)	52½	—	52½	329,244	6,271	1,287,626
Hamilton and Portland Line (including line to Portland Wharf)	54	—	54	267,679	4,957	
Stawell and Horsham Line - -	53½	—	53½	233,030	4,346	
Geelong and Queenscliff - -	20¾	—	20¾	104,141	5,143	
Warrenheip and Gordon's - -	13	—	13	78,997	6,077	
Total Western System	373¼	61¼	434½	4,941,091	11,372	

Names of Lines.	Length open on 31st December 1880.			Cost of Construction.		Distance travelled in the Year.
	Single Lines.	Double Lines.	Total.	Total.	Average per mile.	
NORTH-EASTERN SYSTEM.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	£	£	Train Miles.
Essendon Line (including Racecourse Branch)	2¼	2½	4¾	78,210	16,463	890,596
North-eastern Line	182¼	—	182¼	1,563,868	8,581	
Wangaratta and Beechworth Line	23	—	23	154,023	6,697	
Springs and Wahgunyah	14	—	14	65,025	4,645	
Mangalore and Shepparton	45	—	45	214,916	4,776	
Toolamba and Tatura	7		7	24,783	3,540	
Total North-eastern System	273½	2½	276	2,100,825	7,612	
EASTERN SYSTEM.						
Gippsland Line	118¼	—	118¼	727,675	6,154	340,504
South Yarra and Oakleigh	6¾	—	6¾	166,887	25,675	
Spencer and Flinders Street Junction	¾	—	¾	4,591	6,121	
Total Eastern System	125¾	—	125¾	899,153	7,150	
Suburban Lines (late Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Co.'s)	6¾	9¾	16½	1,229,827	74,535	537,075
Grand Total	1,024¾	174¼	1,199	15,978,539	13,327	4,380,802

84. The total cost of the railways to the end of 1880, including preliminary surveys, sheds, workshops, machinery charges on plant, rolling stock, &c. was 18,041,295*l.* Cost of railways.

85. The only railway in course of construction at the end of 1880 was the line from Lancefield Junction to Lancefield, of a proposed total length of 14½ miles, the amount authorised for its construction being 76,850*l.*, of which sum 8,473*l.* had been expended at the date named. Railways in progress.

86. Besides this there were several lines whose construction was authorised under Act 44 Vict. No. 682, but which had not been commenced when the year closed. The estimated length of these lines is 487 miles, and the expenditure sanctioned is, including stations, for country lines 3,725*l.*, and for suburban lines 9,452*l.* per mile. The gross amount allowed for rolling stock on the former is 161,260*l.*, and on the latter 48,500*l.* Up to the end of 1880 215*l.* had been expended towards the preliminary survey of these lines. Railways authorised.

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Receipts and working expenses.

87. The following were the railway receipts and working expenses during 1879 and 1880. A considerable increase will be noticed in the receipts for passenger fares and freight, and a slight increase in those under the head of sundries. There was also a large increase in the working expenses, and the proportion of working expenses to receipts increased by over ¾ per cent. :—

Railways.—Receipts and Working Expenses, 1879 *and* 1880.

Year.	Receipts.				Working Expenses.	Proportion of Working Expenses to Receipts.
	Passenger Fares.	Freight on Goods.	Sundries.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£	
1879 - - -	535,112	671,307	177,231	1,383,650	742,617	53·67
1880 - - -	567,193	743,422	182,302	1,492,917	814,075	54·53
Increase - -	32,081	72,115	5,071	109,267	71,458	·86

Wages.

88. The following table contains a statement of the average rates of wages paid in Melbourne in 1880. The rates of wages in country districts are generally somewhat higher than those in the metropolis. Throughout Victoria the recognised working day for artisans and general labourers is eight hours:—

Wages in Melbourne,

Description of Labour.	1880.
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.	
Farm labourers - - - per week, and found -	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Ploughmen - - - - „ „ -	20*s.*
Reapers - - - - per acre „ -	12*s.* to 15*s.*
Mowers - - - - „ „ -	4*s.* to 6*s.*
Threshers - - - - per bushel „ -	5*d.* to 7*d.*
PASTORAL LABOUR.	
Shepherds - - - - per annum, with rations	39*l.* to 52*l.*
Stockkeepers - - - „ and found -	50*l.* to 70*l.*
Hutkeepers - - - „ with rations	26*l.* to 40*l.*
Generally useful men on stations - per week, and found -	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Sheepwashers - - - „ „ -	15*s.* to 25*s.*
Shearers - - - - per 100 sheep sheared	12*s.* to 15*s.*
ARTIZAN LABOUR.	
Masons - - - - per day, without board	10*s.*
Plasterers - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Bricklayers - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Carpenters - - - - „ „ -	10*s.*
Blacksmiths - - - „ „ -	10*s.* to 13*s.*

Description of Labour.	1880.
SERVANTS—MALES AND MARRIED COUPLES.	
Married couples, without family - - per annum, with board and lodging	70*l.* to 90*l.*
Married couples, with family - - " " " " -	40*l.* to 60*l.*
Men cooks, on farms and stations - - " " " " -	45*l.* to 55*l.*
Grooms - - " " " " -	40*l.* to 52*l.*
Gardeners - - per week " " " -	30*s.* to 40*s.*
SERVANTS—FEMALES.	
Cooks - - - per annum, with board and lodging	35*l.* to 60*l.*
Laundresses - - " " " " -	30*l.*
General servants - " " " " -	30*l.* to 35*l.*
Housemaids - - " " " " -	25*l.* to 35*l.*
Nursemaids - - " " " -	25*l.* to 30*l.*
MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR.	
General labourers - - per day, without board -	6*s.* to 7*s.*
Stone-breakers - - per cubic yard, without board -	2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Seamen - - - per month, and found - -	4*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.*
Miners - - - per week, without board -	2*l.* to 2*l.* 5*s.*

89. Prices in Melbourne were quoted as follows in the same year. In country districts the cost of groceries, tobacco, wine, coal, &c. is naturally higher, and that of agricultural and grazing produce, firewood, &c. naturally lower, than in Melbourne:— Prices.

Prices in Melbourne.

Articles.	1880.
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.	
Wheat - - - - - per bushel -	3*s.* to 4*s.* 8*d.*
Barley - - - - - " -	2*s.* 3*d.* to 5*s.*
Oats - - - - - " -	1*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.*
Maize - - - - - " -	2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*
Bran - - - - - " -	9*d.* to 1*s.*
Hay - - - - per ton -	2*l.* 5*s.* to 4*l.* 10*s.*
Flour, first quality - - - - " -	9*l.* 5*s.* to 10*l.* 15*s.*
Bread - - - - - per 4-lb. loaf -	5*d.* to 6*d.*
GRAZING PRODUCE.	
Horses:—	
Draught - - - - each -	14*l.* to 58*l.*
Saddle and harness - - - " -	5*l.* to 50*l.*
Cattle:—	
Fat - - - - - " -	6*l.* to 9*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*
Milch cows - - - - " -	2*l.* to 10*l.* 10*s.*
Sheep, fat - - - - - " -	10*s.* 6*d.* to 16*s.* 6*d.*
Lambs, fat - - - - - " -	7*s.* to 9*s.* 6*d.*
Butchers' meat:—	
Beef, retail - - - - per lb. -	2½*d.* to 6*d.*
Mutton " - - - - ,, -	1½*d.* to 5*d.*
Veal " - - - - " -	4*d.* to 6*d.*
Pork " - - - " -	6*d.* to 8*d.*
Lamb " - - - per quarter -	2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*

Articles.		1880.
DAIRY PRODUCE.		
Butter:—		
Colonial, retail	per lb.	6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.*
Cheese:—		
Colonial, retail	„	7*d.* to 10*d.*
Milk	per quart	4*d.* to 6*d.*
FARMYARD PRODUCE.		
Geese	per couple	6*s.* to 10*s.*
Ducks	„	5*s.* to 8*s.*
Fowls	„	4*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.*
Rabbits	„	1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*
Pigeons	„	2*s.* to 3*s.*
Turkeys	each	10*s.* to 25*s.*
Sucking pigs	„	10*s.* to 12*s.* 6*d.*
Bacon	per lb.	8*d.* to 1*s.*
Ham	„	10*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.*
Eggs	per doz.	1*s.* to 2*s.*
GARDEN PRODUCE.		
Potatoes:—		
Wholesale	per ton	1*l.* 15*s.* to 2*l.* 5*s.*
Retail	per lb.	½*d.* to 1*d.*
Onions, dried	per cwt.	3*s.* to 6*s.*
Carrots	per doz. bunches	6*d.* to 8*d.*
Turnips	„	3*d.* to 8*d.*
Radishes	„	3*d.* to 6*d.*
Cabbages	per doz.	3*d.* to 3*s.*
Cauliflowers	„	9*d.* to 4*s.*
Lettuces	„	3*d.* to 1*s.*
Green pease	per lb.	1*d.*
MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.		
Tea (duty paid)	per lb.	8*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.*
Coffee (in bond)	„	8*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.*
Sugar (duty paid)	per ton	26*l.* to 38*l.* 5*s.*
Rice	„	17*l.* to 30*l.* 10*s.*
Tobacco (in bond)	per lb.	8*d.* to 2*s.*
Soap, Colonial	per ton	20*l.* to 29*l.*
Candles:—		
Sperm	per lb.	7½*d.* to 10½*d.*
Salt	per ton	3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 6*l.* 5*s.*
Coals	„	28*s.* to 40*s.*
Firewood	„	9*s.* to 12*s.*
WINES SPIRITS, &C.		
Ale (duty paid)	per hhd.	6*l.* 10*s.* to 9*l.*
„ „	per doz.	8*s.* to 11*s.*
Porter „	per hhd.	7*l.* 5*s.* to 7*l.* 10*s.*
„	per doz.	8*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*
Brandy (in bond)	per gall.	6*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*
Rum „	„	2*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*
Whiskey „	„	4*s.* 3*d.* to 10*s.*
Hollands „	„	3*s.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*
Port wine „	per pipe	21*l.* to 120*l.*
„ (duty paid)	per doz.	—
Sherry (in bond)	per butt.	22*l.* to 135*l.*
„ (duty paid)	per doz.	52*s.* to 122*s.*
Claret	„	13*s* to 73*s.*
Champagne	„	25*s.* to 75*s.*

90. The price of gold in 1880 ranged from 3*l.* to 4*l.* 3*s.* per oz. Its purity, and consequently its value, varies in different districts. In the last quarter of 1880 the lowest price quoted (3*l.* per oz.) was in the Maryborough district, but some gold in the same district was stated to have realized as much as 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per oz. The highest average was in the Ballarat district, in which the prices ranged from 3*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.* 3*s.*, and the next highest in the Castlemaine district, where the prices ranged from 3*l.* 17*s.* to 4*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* Price of gold.

91. The financial year 1879–80 commenced with a debit balance of 135,000*l.*, and the expenditure of the year exceeded its revenue by 254,000*l.* The debit balance to carry forward to the ensuing year was therefore 389,000*l.* The following are the exact figures:— Finance account, 1879–80.

Finance Account, 1879–80.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Net receipts - - - -	4,621,282	4	1
Net expenditure - -	4,875,029	5	0
Expenditure in excess of receipts -	253,747	0	11
Debit balance of 1878–9 brought forward	134,907	4	8
Debit balance to carry forward to 1880–81	388,654	5	7

92. During the financial year ended on the 30th June 1880 the general revenue of Victoria was augmented by the imposition, on the 18th December 1879, of stamp duties, which realized 83,000*l.*; by the revenue, amounting to 159,950*l.*, derived from the late Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway, which was worked by the Government from the commencement of the financial year, and by a sum estimated to amount to 47,800*l.*, consequent on alterations in the tariff. An increase of 290,750*l.*, is thus directly attributable to the sources of revenue having been disturbed by legislation, besides which an average of about* additional miles of railway were opened for traffic during the period. Changes effected by Legislation.

93. As against the increase from these sources must, however, be set a diminution of 115,000*l.* in the amount of land tax collected. This arose not from any falling off in the revenue from this source, but from the fact that the amount in 1878–9 had been unduly swelled by large arrears from 1877–8, representing the sums which had been left unpaid during the period the appeals against the land tax assessment were being considered. Falling off in land tax receipts.

94. The revenue of 1879–80 was less than in 1878–9 by 238*l.*, and also less than in 1876–7 by 102,595*l.* but was greater than in any other previous year. Revenue, 1879–80, and former years.

* Sic in original.

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Expenditure of 1879-80, and former years.

95. The expenditure of 1879-80 was greater than that of 1878-9 by 41,650*l.*, and was the largest amount that had ever been expended in the Colony in one year.

Revenue and expenditure per head 1851 to 1879-80.

96. The revenue and expenditure per head for each year from that of separation from New South Wales to 1879-80 will be found in the following table :—

Revenue and Expenditure per Head, 1851 *to* 1879-80.

Year.	Average Population of each year.	Revenue per Head.	Expenditure per head.
		£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1851 - - -	86,825	4 10 5	4 14 8
1852 - - -	132,905	12 5 11	7 7 4
1853 - - -	195,378	16 11 2	16 9 3
1854 - - -	267,371	11 11 0	15 13 1
1855 - - -	338,315	8 1 4	7 14 6
1856 - - -	380,942	7 16 1	7 0 1
1857 - - -	430,347	7 14 8	6 17 11
1858 - - -	483,827	6 2 11	6 7 10
1859 - - -	517,390	6 6 1	6 11 3
1860 - - -	534,055	5 15 5	6 4 2
1861 - - -	539,824	5 9 4	5 14 6
1862 - - -	548,080	5 19 3	5 10 11
1863 - - -	562,960	4 18 6	5 2 5
1864 - - -	586,450	5 0 9	4 19 11
1865 - - -	611,218	5 0 8	4 17 7
1866 - - -	629,03	4 17 11	5 2 5
1867 - - -	644,276	4 19 10	5 0 7
1868 - - -	663,092	4 17 5	4 16 2
1869 - - -	687,202	4 18 6	4 13 10
1870 - - -	713,195	4 11 5	4 16 2
1871 (six months) - -	731,528	2 6 3	2 8 0
1871-2 - - -	747,412	4 19 11¼	4 17 11
1872-3 - - -	758,984	4 16 0¼	4 12 4½
1873-4 - - -	772,039	5 6 4¾	5 8 2¾
1874-5 - - -	783,274	5 8 2½	5 10 3¼
1875-6 - - -	791,399	5 9 3¾	5 15 6¾
1876-7 - - -	801,717	5 17 10¼	5 8 8¾
1877-8 - - -	815,494	5 10 5¾	5 13 8
1878-9 - - -	827,439	5 11 8½	5 16 10¼
1879-80 - - -	840,620	5 9 11½	5 16 0

97. In 1879–80 the revenue per head was less than in the three previous years, but was greater than in any other year since 1862. The expenditure per head was exceeded in 1878–9, but was not equalled in any other year since 1860. It will be observed that, in proportion to population, both revenue and expenditure declined pretty steadily year by year from 1862 to 1872–3, but in 1873–4 an augmentation took place, which has been maintained ever since.

Revenue and expenditure per head in 1879–80, and former years.

98. In the sixteen and a half years ended with 1879–80 the revenue raised exceeded the Treasurer's estimate on nine occasions, or by 1,468,881*l.*; and was less than that estimate on eight occasions, or by 1,109,470*l.* Deducting the latter from the former, the net amount by which the result exceeded the estimate is found to have been 359,411*l.* The following table shows the revenue estimated and actually raised, also the difference between those amounts in each of the years :—

Revenue estimated and raised.

Revenue estimated and raised, 1864 *to* 1879–80.

Year.	Revenue.		
	According to Treasurer's Estimate.	Actually Raised.	More (+) or less (−) than Estimate.
	£	£	£
1864 - - -	2,973,000	2,955,338	− 17,662
1865 - - -	3,095,400	3,076,885	− 18,515
1866 - - -	3,186,265	3,079,160	− 107,105
1867 - - -	3,379,078	3,216,317	− 162,761
1868 - - -	2,963,050	3,230,754	+ 267,704
1869 - - -	3,241,500	3,383,984	+ 142,484
1870 - - -	3,529,100	3,261,883	− 267,217
1871 (6 months) - -	1,664,700	1,691,266	+ 26,566
1871–2 - - -	3,538,750	3,734,422	+ 195,672
1872–3 - - -	3,611,920	3,644,135	+ 32,215
1873–4 - - -	3,883,650	4,106,790	+ 223,140
1874–5 - - -	4,259,135	4,236,423	− 22,712
1875–6 - - -	4,109,750	4,325,156	+ 215,406
1876–7 - - -	4,385,716	4,723,877	+ 338,161
1877–8 - - -	4,476,880	4,504,413	+ 27,533
1878–9 - - -	4,855,666	4,621,520	− 234,146
1879–80 - - -	4,900,634	4,621,282	− 279,352

99. The year in which the revenue exceeded the estimate by the largest amount is shown to have been 1876–7, viz., by 338,161*l.*, whilst that in which it fell most short of the estimate was 1879–80, viz., by 279,352*l.*

Years in which estimates were exceeded and contrary.

100. The amount voted by the legislature in any year exceeds, as is well known, that actually spent, the difference being designated the "savings" of the year. The following table shows the expenditure authorised and incurred and the savings in each of the sixteen and a half years ended with 1879–80.

Expenditure authorised and incurred.

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Expenditure authorised and incurred, and Savings, 1864 to 1879–80.

Year.	Expenditure.		
	Authorised.	Incurred.	Savings.
	£	£	£
1864 - - -	3,296,333	2,928,903	367,430
1865 - - -	3,574,003	2,983,777	590,226
1866 - - -	3,699,141	3,222,025	477,116
1867 - - -	3,551,881	3,241,818	310,063
1868 - - -	3,386,103	3,189,321	196,782
1869 - - -	3,460,099	3,226,165	233,934
1870 - - -	3,736,854	3,428,382	308,472
1871 (6 months) -	1,845,136	1,754,251	90,885
1871–2 - - -	3,803,096	3,659,534	143,562
1872–3 - - -	3,885,252	3,504,953	380,299
1873–4 - - -	4,519,959	4,177,338	342,621
1874–5 - - -	4,703,018	4,318,121	384,897
1875–6 - - -	4,791,349	4,572,844	218,505
1876–7 - - -	4,561,902	4,358,096	203,806
1877–8 - - -	4,982,489	4,634,349	348,140
1878–9 - - -	5,164,659	4,833,379	331,280
1879–80 - - -	5,304,782	4,875,029	429,753

Savings, 1864–80.

101. By adding the last column, it is found that the aggregate savings in the sixteen and a half years amounted to over five and a third millions sterling (5,357,771*l.*), or a much larger sum than was actually expended in any one of the years.

Surplus or deficiency of revenue.

102. By taking the difference between the amounts in the second money column of the last two tables, the surplus or deficiency of the gross public revenue of each year will be ascertained.

Surplus or Deficiency of Revenue, 1864 to 1879–80.

—	Surplus.	Deficiency.	—	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£		£	£
1864 -	26,435	—	1872–3 -	139,182	—
1865 -	93,108	—	1873–4 -	—	70,548
1866 -	—	142,865	1874–5 -	—	81,698
1867 -	—	25,501	1875–6 -	—	247,688
1868 -	41,433	—	1876–7 -	365,781	—
1869 -	157,819	—	1877–8 -	—	129,936
1870 -	—	166,499	1878–9 -	—	211,859
1871 (6months)	—	62,985	1879–80 -	—	253,747
1871–2 -	74,888	—			

Years in which revenue exceeded expenditure and contrary.

103. By these figures it appears that in seven of the years the revenue exceeded the expenditure, whereas in nine, as well as in the half year ended on 30th June 1871, the reverse was the case. The revenue exceeded the expenditure by the largest amount in

1876–7, and the expenditure exceeded the revenue by the largest amount in 1879–80.

Net deficiency of income, 1864–80.

104. If the figures be added, those in the surplus column will be found to amount to 898,646*l.*, and those in the deficiency column to 1,393,326*l.* The difference, representing the deficiency of income, in fifteen and a half years is thus, 494,680*l.*

Heads of revenue.

105. The following are the heads of revenue in Victoria for the last six financial years, and the amounts received under each head:—

Heads of Revenue, 1874-5 *to* 1879–80.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.					
	1874–5.	1875–6.	1876–7.	1877–8.	1878–9.	1879–80.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs - -	1,628,235	1,657,788	1,631,832	1,487,448	1,378,384	1,377,781
Excise - -	32,475	33,437	34,768	36,309	36,088	41,230
Ports and harbours -	19,935	22,104	20,993	22,647	20,310	19,193
Licenses (business) -	10,714	10,712	11,688	17,150	20,116	21,761
Duties on estates of deceased persons -	32,526	48,963	44,103	72,500	47,983	37,928
„ on bank notes	—	7,191	27,248	26,672	24,956	22,470
Land tax - -	—	—	—	50,227	202,251	87,553
Stamp duty - -	—	—	—	—	—	83,005
Mint charges -	7,504	7,659	7,512	7,247	7,906	10,158
„ subsidy returned	4,299	10,695	7,104	447	6,624	6,350
Land sales (including rents counting towards purchase money) - -	767,624	782,069	783,311	756,674	802,254	694,321
Rents of Crown lands (not counting towards purchase money) - -	173,601	184,776	208,872	186,337	163,207	147,994
Penalties under Land Acts - -	5,528	53,167	54,233	14,704	3,774	1,749
Railways - -	921,714	983,033	1,078,082	1,202,280	1,222,241	1,425,181*
Water supply -	88,556	92,947	100,219	104,819	115,287	117,871
Public works (exclusive of railways and water supply) -	6,834	6,042	5,690	5,190	5,879	4,142
Post and telegraphs -	198,326	209,213	226,597	239,002	244,761	249,414
Fines, fees, and forfeitures (exclusive of Land Act penalties) - -	111,304	112,664	121,676	119,632	113,177	110,640
Rents (ordinary) -	749	674	730	824	935	799
Reimbursements in aid	29,341	37,739	34,492	36,894	28,757	24,189
Interest and exchange	75,025	48,086	95,106	78,080	43,483	46,196
Miscellaneous receipts	55,410	16,197	19,482	20,329	28,047	24,327
Recoups from Loans	4,169,700	4,325,156	4,513,738	4,485,412	4,516,420	4,554,252
and assets realised	66,723	—	210,139	19,001	105,100	67,030
Total -	4,236,423	4,325,156	4,723,877	4,504,413	4,621,520	4,621,282

* Including, for the first time, revenue derived from the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay system recently purchased by the Government amounting to 159,951*l.*

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Heads of expenditure.

106. The following are the heads of expenditure during the last six financial years, and the amounts expended under each head, distinguishing the expenditure specially appropriated by Acts of Parliament from that voted annually:—

Heads of Expenditure, 1874–5 *to* 1879–80.

Heads of Expenditure.	Year.	Expenditure from—		Total.
		Votes.	Special Appropriations.	
		£	£	£
Legislature -	1874–5	15,739	40,813	56,552
	1875–6	15,909	41,612	57,521
	1876–7	14,889	43,918	58,807
	1877–8	15,878	48,162	64,040
	1878–9	16,502	42,710	59,212
	1879–80	16,502	44,306	60,808
Civil establishment * -	1874–5	103,681	—	103,681
	1875–6	100,130	—	100,130
	1876–7	102,444	—	102,444
	1877–8	101,175	—	101,175
	1878–9	101,451	—	101,451
	1879–80	104,867	—	104,867
Judicial and legal -	1874–5	156,558	16,417	172,975
	1875–6	154,469	16,125	170,594
	1876–7	154,932	16,750	171,682
	1877–8	154,498	16,567	171,065
	1878–9	158,056	14,000	172,056
	1879–80	157,664	14,000	171,664
Public instruction, science, &c. - - -	1874–5	405,662	9,000	414,662
	1875–6	463,776	9,000	472,776
	1876–7	481,409	9,000	490,409
	1877–8	510,175	9,000	519,175
	1878–9	560,673	9,000	569,673
	1879–80	557,579	11,250	568,829
State school buildings † -	1874–5	181,440	—	181,440
	1875–6	—	—	—
	1876–7	—	—	—
	1877–8	—	—	—
	1878–9	—	—	—
	1879–80	—	—	—
Charitable institutions, medical, &c. - -	1874–5	273,537	—	273,537
	1875–6	270,318	—	270,318
	1876–7	278,970	—	278,970
	1877–8	281,509	—	281,509
	1878–9	277,016	—	277,016
	1879–80	272,539	—	272,539

* Including cost of the following departments:— Chief Secretary, Government Statist, Short-hand Writer, Agent-General, Audit Office, Registrar of Friendly Societies, Inspector of Stock, Treasury, Stores and Transport, and Government Printer.

† Since 1874–5 the amount expended on school buildings has been paid entirely out of loans. *See* table following paragraph 108, *post*.

Heads of Expenditure, 1874–5 *to* 1879–80—continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	Year.	Expenditure from—		Total.
		Votes.	Special Appropriations.	
		£	£	£
Mining	1874–5	27,153	3,500	30,653
	1875–6	34,653	3,500	38,153
	1876–7	34,043	3,500	37,543
	1877–8	25,030	3,500	28,530
	1878–9	48,882	3,500	52,382
	1879–80	24,704*	3,500	28,204
Police	1874–5	198,312	—	198,312
	1875–6	199,738	—	199,738
	1876–7	197,371	—	197,371
	1877–8	207,119	—	207,119
	1878–9	209,041	—	209,041
	1879–80	233,732	—	233,732
Gaols and penal establishments	1874–5	60,469	—	60,469
	1875–6	61,051	—	61,051
	1876–7	60,008	—	60,008
	1877–8	58,132	—	58,132
	1878–9	58,442	—	58,442
	1879–80	56,636	—	56,636
Mint‡	1874–5	—	20,000	20,000
	1875–6	—	20,000	20,000
	1876–7	—	18,333	18,333
	1877–8	—	20,000	20,000
	1878–9	—	20,000	20,000
	1879–80	—	20,000	20,000
Crown lands and survey	1874–5	140,246	—	140,246
	1875–6	139,070	—	139,070
	1876–7	164,011	—	164,011
	1877–8	150,248	—	150,248
	1878–9	149,976	—	149,976
	1879–80	157,057	—	157,057
Railways	1874–5	437,931	—	437,931
	1875–6	489,751	—	489,751
	1876–7	562,517	—	562,517
	1877–8	616,207	—	616,207
	1878–9	662,178	—	662,178
	1879–80	771,527	—	771,527
Water supply	1874–5	17,013	—	17,013
	1875–6	17,192	—	17,192
	1876–7	18,099	—	18,099
	1877–8	22,621	—	22,621
	1878–9	28,501	—	28,501
	1879–80	26,053	—	26,053

*Including a sum of 500*l.* lent by the Government to assist in developing the mining industry. The sum lent for this purpose in 1878–9 was 18,800*l.*, and in 1877–8 250*l.*

† The annual subsidy to the Mint is 20,000*l.*, portion of this sum, however, has been repaid each year to the revenue.

Heads of Expenditure, 1874–5 *to* 1879–80—continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	Year.	Expenditure from—		Total.
		Votes.	Special Appropriations.	
		£	£	£
Public works*	1874–5	339,855	315,640	655,495
	1875–6	332,465	347,754	680,219
	1876–7	242,283	310,704	552,987
	1877–8	252,505	310,000	562,505
	1878–9	276,401	310,000	586,401
	1879–80	476,593†	155,000†	631,593
Customs	1874–5	57,364	—	57,364
	1875–6	56,311	—	56,311
	1876–7	56,186	—	56,186
	1877–8	64,058	—	64,058
	1878–9	59,467	—	59,467
	1879–80	62,226	—	62,226
Harbours and lights	1874–5	35,035	—	35,035
	1875–6	34,703	—	34,703
	1876–7	29,980	—	29,980
	1877–8	29,017	—	29,017
	1878–9	28,876	—	28,876
	1879–80	29,272	—	29,273
Defences	1874–5	53,507	—	53,507
	1875–6	58,233	—	58,233
	1876–7	74,020	—	74,020
	1877–8	121,266	—	121,266
	1878–9	118,122	—	118,122
	1879–80	93,779	—	93,779
Post and telegraphs	1874–5	294,726	63,164	357,890
	1875–6	280,981	20,928	301,909
	1876–7	298,467	61,931	360,398
	1877–8	312,958	63,133	376,091
	1878–9	333,120	53,984	387,104
	1879–80	338,088	57,188	395,276
Retiring allowances and pensions.‡	1874–5	2,587	26,529	29,116
	1875–6	2,426	27,423	29,849
	1876–7	4,725	26,214	30,939
	1877–8	5,587	28,370	33,957
	1878–9	9,153	34,751	43,904
	1879–80	9,336	36,340	45,676
Gratuities, compensations, &c.‡	1874–5	10,884	3,078	13,962
	1875–6	5,963	1,752	7,715
	1876–7	7,187	3,478	10,665
	1877–8	7,146	42,582	49,728
	1878–9	33,444	12,360	45,804
	1879–80	19,416	1,406	20,822

* Exclusive of school buildings and of all public works paid for out of loans, but including endowments of municipalities under the Local Government Act.

† The provision of the Local Government Act 1874 authorising the subsidy to municipalities having lapsed on the 31st December 1879, an amount equivalent to half a year's subsidy was voted by Parliament. This accounts for the large decrease in the expenditure from Special Appropriations, and a corresponding increase in that from Votes.

‡ Extensive reductions in the public service were made in 1877–8, which caused an increase in the amount of retiring allowances and gratuities.

Heads of Expenditure, 1874–5 *to* 1879–80—continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	Year.	Expenditure from—		Total.
		Votes.	Special Appropriations.	
		£	£	£
Redemption of loans	1874–5	—	35,000	35,000
	1875–6	—	—	—
	1876–7	—	—	—
	1877–8	—	—	—
	1878–9	—	—	—
	1879–80	—	—	—
Interest	1874–5	—	742,008	742,008
	1875–6	—	793,600	793,600
	1876–7	1,867	816,803	818,670
	1877–8	—	920,911	920,911
	1878–9	3,842	914,698	918,540
	1879–80	—	1,002,722	1,002,722
Civil list*	1874–5	—	70,984	70,984
	1875–6	—	71,227	71,227
	1876–7	—	29,604	29,604
	1877–8	—	29,564	29,564
	1878–9	—	29,636	29,636
	1879–80	—	27,728	27,728
Aborigines	1874–5	6,209	—	6,209
	1875–6	6,100	—	6,100
	1876–7	7,500	—	7,500
	1877–8	7,464	—	7,464
	1878–9	10,499	—	10,499
	1879–80	7,500	—	7,500
Placed to railway loan liquidation and construction account.†	1874–5	—	100,000	100,000
	1875–6	—	300,000	300,000
	1876–7	—	200,000	200,000
	1877–8	—	100,000	100,000
	1878–9	—	200,000	200,000
	1879–80	—	—	—

* Including Governor's salary, and salaries of Ministers, Commissioners of Audit, Agent-General, and expenses of Executive Council, in all the years; also Public Worship until the middle of 1875–6, when State Aid was abolished.

† This account was created under the Land Act, 1869 (33 Vict. No. 360, secs. 42 and 43), whereby it was provided that an amount of 200,000*l.*, proceeding from the alienation of land, should be placed annually to a trust account, the moneys standing to the credit of which should be available for the repurchase of debentures, or the further construction of railways. The total amount which had been paid to this fund up to the 30th June 1879, all of which had been expended on the survey or construction of lines of railway, was 2,191,172*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, viz., 1,800,000*l.* paid in accordance with these provisions, and 391,172*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* advanced from time to time under the Railway Loan Act 1875 (39 Vict. No. 531), section 11, and the Railway Loan Act, 1878 (42 Vict No. 608), section 11, which provide that advances to this fund out of the Railway loans may be made in anticipation of the whole sum of money accruing and becoming available, viz., 2,200,000*l.* up to the expiry of the Principal Act, on the 31st December 1879.

Heads of Expenditure, 1874-5 *to* 1879-80—continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	Year.	Expenditure from—		Total.
		Votes.	Special Appropriations.	
		£	£	£
Miscellaneous services ‡	1874-5	30,108	2,500	32,608
	1875-6	30,627	2,500	33,127
	1876-7	21,497	2,500	23,997
	1877-8	31,222	2,500	33,722
	1878-9	39,598	2,500	42,098
	1879-80	31,725	2,500	34,225
Total, exclusive of amounts to be recouped from loans, &c.	1874-5	2,848,016	1,448,633	4,296,649
	1875-6	2,753,866	1,655,421	4,409,287
	1876-7	2,812,405	1,542,735	4,355,140
	1877-8	2,973,815	1,594,289	4,568,104
	1878-9	3,183,240	1,647,139	4,830,379
	1879-80	3,446,795	1,375,940	4,822,735
Amounts to be recouped	1874-5	21,472	—	21,472
	1875-6	163,556	—	163,556
	1876-7	2,956	—	2,956
	1877-8	66,245	—	66,245
	1878-9	3,000	—	3,000
	1879-80	52,294	—	52,294
Grand total of expenditure	1874-5	2,869,488	1,448,633	4,318,121
	1875-6	2,917,422	1,655,421	4,572,843
	1876-7	2,815,361	1,542,735	4,358,096
	1877-8	3,040,060	1,594,289	4,634,349
	1878-9	3,186,240	1,647,139	4,833,379
	1879-80	3,499,089	1,375,940	4,875,029

Votes more, appropriations less, than in other years.

107. It will be observed that in 1879–80 the total expenditure from votes was much greater, but that from special appropriations much less, than in any previous year. The latter is chiefly accounted for by the non-payment in that year of 200,000*l.* appropriated annually to the Railway Loan Liquidation Account, and to the subsidy to local bodies being charged half to special appropriations and half to votes, as already explained in a footnote to the item "Public Works".

Expenditure of loans, &c.

108. The following table shows the expenditure of amounts raised by means of loans during each of the six years ended with the year under review; also the expenditure on the Port of Melbourne during each of the three years which have elapsed since the establishment of the Harbour Trust on 1st January 1877. This is intended to supplement the foregoing table by exhibiting those items which, having never been, or having ceased to be,

* The amounts in the column for Special. Appropriations are the unexpended balances of the Pension Fund (Schedule D., Part V.), repaid each year to the revenue.

a charge on the general revenue, are treated in separate accounts:—

Expenditure of Proceeds of Loans and of the Harbour Trust Fund, 1874–5 *to* 1879–80.

Purposes of Expenditure.	Amounts expended.					
	1874–5.	1875–6.	1876–7.	1877–8.	1878–9.	1879–90.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Water supply - -	215,719	123,834	245,647	185,165	45,787	101,968
Railways - -	605,886	683,905	118,724	445,842	1,082,781	1,240,668
Public buildings- -	37,257	55,000	58,851	55,217	85,370	78,403
State school buildings -	*	99,899	168,320	285,306	91,427	66,514
Alfred graving dock -	31,411	1,406	2,442	225	—	—
Total from loans	890,273	964,044	593,984	971,755	1,305,365	1,487,553
Maintenance and improvement of the Port of Melbourne.	*	*	16,940	92,136	91,014	103,540
Grand Total -	890,273	964,044	610,924	1,063,891	1,396,379	1,591,093

Taxation.

109. The amounts of which revenue is made up are of two classes, viz., those raised by taxation and those raised otherwise. In Victoria the former class consisted in 1879–80 of customs and excise duties, wharfage rates, port and harbour dues, business licenses, duties on bank notes, duties on estates of deceased persons, a land tax and stamp duties. The latter class comprised amounts derived from the sale or occupation of Crown lands, from railways, water supply, and other public works, from post and telegraph offices, from fees, fines, and forfeitures, from the labour of prisoners, from the interest on the public account, &c. The following figures show the result of a division of the Victorian revenue upon this principle:—

Taxation, 1879–80.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Revenue raised by taxation -	1,690,922	15	5
„ otherwise -	2,930,359	8	8
Total - - -	4,621,282	4	1

Taxation increased by legislation.

110. During the year 1879–80 fresh taxation was imposed to the extent of 130,000*l.*, viz., 83,000*l.* by means of stamp duties,

* The expenditure on State school buildings prior to 1875–6, and that on the Port of Melbourne prior to the middle of 1876–7, were chargeable to the general revenue, and are therefore included in the table following paragraph 106, *ante.*

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and an estimated amount of 47,800*l.* by increased customs duties. For reasons explained in a previous paragraph, a decrease of 115,000*l.* took place in the receipts under the head of land tax, and this was partly the cause that notwithstanding the new imposts, the total revenue raised by taxation was less in the year under review than in the previous one.

Taxation per head.

111. The amount raised by taxation divided by the estimated mean population of the financial year, already stated to have been 840,620, gives an average of 2*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* to each individual.

Comparison of taxation 1879–80, with former years.

112. The gross amount produced by taxation was less than in 1878–9 by 39,165*l.*, and also less than in any year since 1871–2 ; the average per head was smaller than in any other year except 1864, 1865, 1866, and 1870, and the proportion of taxation to revenue in 1878–9 about $36\frac{3}{5}$ per cent., was less than in any previous year except 1862, 1854, and 1853.

Duty on bank notes.

113. The tax on bank notes was imposed under the Act 39 Vict. No. 526, which came into operation on the 1st January 1876. It is at the rate of 2*l.* on every 100*l.* of the amount of notes issued by any bank between the 1st July and the 30th June of each year. This tax produces about 25,000*l.* per annum.

Land tax.

114. The Act for imposing a land tax (41 Vict. No. 575) came into operation on the 28th August 1877. It provides that all estates over 640 acres in extent, valued at upwards of 2,500*l.*, whether consisting of one block or several blocks of land not more than five miles apart, shall be taxed at the rate of one and a quarter per cent. upon their capital value after deducting therefrom the sum of 2,500*l.*, only one exemption being, however, allowed in the case of a proprietor holding more than one estate. Since this tax was first imposed it has produced 340,000*l.*, or an average of about 113,000*l.* per annum.

Stamp duties.

115. The principal addition to the taxation during the financial year 1879–80 was effected by the imposition, for the first time, of stamp duties, under Act 43 Vict. No. 645 which came into force on the 18th December 1879.

Revenue from stamp duties.

116. The amount collected by means of this tax during the financial year 1879–80 was 83,005*l.*, which was, however, for a period of only $6\frac{1}{2}$ months. During the calendar year 1880, according to the last report of the Post Office, the duty stamps issued or impressed on documents numbered 9,782,697, and of a total value of 123,131*l.* Of these as many as 9,249,200 valued at 38,538*l.* were penny stamps, remainder being of higher denominations. The expenses connected with the manufacture and issue of duty stamps during 1880 amounted to 5,101*l.*

General and local revenue and expenditure.

117. A statement of the revenue and expenditure of the general government added to those of the municipal government during the last five years, and to those of the Melbourne Harbour Trust during the four years that body has been in existence, will be found in the following table. From the totals of municipal re-

venue and expenditure the amounts granted by the State have been deducted:—

General and Local Revenue and Expenditure, 1876 *to* 1880.

	Total Amounts received and expended.				
	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Revenue.	£	£	£	£	£
General government -	4,325,156	4,723,876	4,504,413	4,621,520	4,621,282
Municipal government -	684,691	674,436	639,428	624,681	616,132
Melbourne Harbour Trust -	—	44,435	86,746	78,517	71,260
Total - -	5,009,847	5,442,747	5,230,587	5,324,718	5,308,674
Expenditure.					
General government -	4,572,843	4,358,096	4,634,349	4,833,379	4,875,029
Municipal government -	649,655	632,094	713,503	583,476	771,054
Melbourne Harbour Trust -	—	16,940	92,136	93,849	107,662
Total - -	5,222,498	5,007,130	5,439,988	5,510,704	5,753,745

118. The next table gives the general and local revenue and expenditure per head in the same five years. It will be observed that in the last year named the local revenue, embracing that of the municipal bodies and that of the harbour trust, amounted to over 16*s.* per head, and the general and local revenue combined to over 6*l.* per head. General and local revenue and expenditure per head.

General and Local Revenue and Expenditure per Head, 1876 *to* 1880.

	Amounts received and expended per Head.											
	1876.			1877.			1878.			1879.			1880.		
Revenue.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
General government -	5	9	$3\frac{3}{4}$	5	17	$10\frac{1}{4}$	5	10	$5\frac{1}{4}$	5	11	$8\frac{1}{2}$	5	9	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Municipal government -	0	17	$3\frac{3}{4}$	0	16	$9\frac{3}{4}$	0	15	$8\frac{1}{4}$	0	15	$1\frac{1}{4}$	0	14	8
Melbourne Harbour Trust -		—		0	1	$1\frac{1}{4}$	0	2	$1\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	11	0	1	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Total - -	6	6	$7\frac{1}{2}$	6	15	$9\frac{1}{4}$	6	8	3	6	8	$8\frac{3}{4}$	6	6	4
Expenditure.															
General government -	5	15	$6\frac{3}{4}$	5	8	$8\frac{1}{4}$	5	13	8	5	17	1	5	16	0
Municipal government -	0	16	$5\frac{1}{4}$	0	15	$9\frac{1}{4}$	0	17	6	0	14	$1\frac{1}{2}$	0	18	$4\frac{1}{4}$
Melbourne Harbour Trust -		—		0	0	$5\frac{1}{4}$	0	2	$3\frac{1}{4}$	0	2	$3\frac{1}{4}$	0	2	$6\frac{3}{4}$
Total - -	6	12	0	6	4	$10\frac{3}{4}$	6	13	$5\frac{1}{4}$	6	13	$5\frac{3}{4}$	6	16	11

119. The amount of taxation under the general and municipal governments and under the Melbourne Harbour Trust is given in the following table for the same years, the items being specified General and local taxation.

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in each case. The principle upon which the items of taxation are separated from the general revenue has been already explained. The local taxation is separated from the municipal revenue by rejecting—besides all grants received from the general government—rents of buildings and land, proceeds of the letting of halls, &c., the balance being considered as taxation. The taxation levied by the Harbour Trust consists only of wharfage rates :—

General and Local Taxation, 1876 *to* 1880.

Heads of Taxation.	Amount received.				
	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
General Government Taxation.	£	£	£	£	£
Customs duties - -	1,550,461	1,522,795	1,459,628	1,351,864	1,353,656
Wharfage rates - -	107,327	109,037	27,820	26,520	24,125
Ports and harbours - -	22,104	20,993	22,647	20,310	19,194
Spirits distilled in Victoria -	33,437	34,768	36,309	36,088	41,230
Licenses (not territorial) -	10,712	11,688	17,150	20,116	21,762
Duties on estates of deceased persons - - -	48,963	44,104	72,500	47,983	37,928
Duties on bank notes -	7,191	27,248	26,672	24,956	22,470
Land tax - - -	—	—	50,227	202,251	87,553
Stamp duty - - -	—	—	—	—	83,005
Toll receipts - -	197	52	—	—	—
Total - -	1,780,392	1,770,685	1,712,953	1,730,088	1,690,923
Municipal Government Taxation.					
Rates - - -	359,266	381,580	401,208	398,303	401,096
Toll receipts - -	61,055	57,078	13,895	—	—
Licenses - - -	108,753	108,367	102,732	98,441	94,713
Registration of dogs and goats	10,783	10,843	10,293	10,521	10,370
Market dues - - -	31,248	32,742	32,776	32,095	37,451
Total - -	571,105	590,610	560,904	539,360	543,630
Melbourne Harbour Trust Taxation.					
Wharfage rates - -	—	43,106	84,731	75,295	67,827
Total general and local taxation - -	2,351,497	2,404,401	2,358,588	2,344,743	2,302,380

General and local taxation per head.

120. The aggregate amounts raised by means of the general and local taxation represented in 1875 a proportion of 2*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* to each individual in the community ; in 1876, 2*l.* 19*s.* 5¼*d.* ; in 1877, 3*l.* ; in 1878, 2*l.* 17*s.* 10¼*d.* ; in 1879, 2*l.* 16*s.* 8¼*d.* ; and in 1880, 2*l.* 14*s.* 9½*d.*

Public debt.

121. The public debt of Victoria amounted on the 30th June 1880 to 20,056,600*l.*, and consisted of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Debentures - -	19,450,220	0	0
Stock - - -	606,379	15	11
Total - -	20,056,599	15	11

122. The public debt was authorised for the following purposes:— Purposes for which loans were incurred.

	£	s.	d.
Railways - - - -	17,728,366	12	2
Water supply - - - -	3,321,307	6	0
Defences - - - -	100,000	0	0
Public works and buildings - -	586,426	1	10
State schools - - - -	800,000	0	0
Alfred Graving Dock - - -	350,000	0	0
Melbourne and Geelong improvements*	735,000	0	0
To make good deficiency on sale of stock	62,000	0	0
	23,683,100	0	0

	£	s.	d.			
Deduct debentures unsold - -	2,000,000	0	0			
Deduct stock unsold	36,502	2	1			
Deduct amounts repaid - -	1,603,100	0	0			
				3,639,602	2	1
				20,043,497	17	11
Increase by bonus on conversion of 5 and 6 per cent. debentures into 4 per cent. stock - - - -				13,101	18	0
Total - -				20,056,599	15	11

123. The following are the rates of interest payable on the various amounts of which the debt is composed:— Rates of interest.

	£	s.	d.
6 per cent. - -	9,073,320	0	0
5 per cent. - -	2,419,900	0	0
4½ per cent. - -	3,000,000	0	0
4 per cent. - -	5,563,379	15	11
Total - -	20,056,599	15	11

124. On the 30th June 1880 the estimated population of Victoria was 850,343. If the amount of debt at the same period (20,056,600*l.*) be divided by this number, the proportionate indebtedness of each man, woman, and child in the Colony will be shown to have been 23*l.* 11*s.* 8¾*d.* Indebtedness per head.

125. No fresh loans were raised during the financial year 1879–80, but owing to the sale of stock on hand, the total debt increased by 8,378*l.* Increase of debt, 1879–80.

126. According to the latest computation, the total area of the Colony of Victoria is 56,245,760 acres; and if from this be deducted the sum of the lands granted, sold, and selected, amounting Crown lands unalienated.

* This amount was borrowed in 1854 by the city of Melbourne and town of Geelong, the principal and interest being guaranteed out of the general revenue of he Colony. The whole has since been repaid.

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Public estate, 1880.

to 19,820,871 acres, it will follow that the residue, representing the Crown lands neither alienated nor in process of alienation, amounted at the end of 1880 to 36,424,889.

127. The whole of this residue, however, is not available for selection, for it embraces lands occupied by roads, the unsold portions of the sites of towns, the State forests, auriferous, pastoral, and timber reserves, and land which is at present useless, owing to its mountainous character or to its being covered with mallee scrub, lakes, or lagoons. Deducting these lands from the extent unalienated and unselected, already stated to have been 36,424,889 acres, it will be found that the area open for selection is narrowed to 9,611,932 acres. This will be at once seen by the following table, which shows the position of the public estate at the end of 1880:—

Public Estate of Victoria on 31st December 1880.

Condition of Land.	Number of Acres.
Land alienated in fee simple - - - - - -	12,152,527
Land in process of alienation under deferred payments - -	7,668,344
Roads in connexion with the above - - - - -	1,128,729
Unsold land included in town reserves - - - -	302,000
Reserves in connexion with pastoral occupation (about) - -	350,000
Auriferous land* (about) - - - - - -	991,978
State forests not included in unavailable mountain ranges - -	823,750
Timber reserves - - - - - - -	216,500
Mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes,† lagoons, &c. (about)	23,000,000
Area available for selection at the end of 1880 - - -	9,611,932
Total area of Victoria - - -	56,245,760

Crown lands available for selection.

128. Omitting the 23,000,000 acres covered by mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes, lagoons, &c., the remainder of the Colony, amounting to 33,245,760 acres, or about 59 per cent. of the total area, may be said to be at present suitable for occupation. Of this extent at the end of 1880, 19,820,871 acres, or 60 per cent., were already alienated or in process of alienation; 3,812,957 acres, or 11 per cent., were occupied by reserves; and 9,611,932 acres, or 29 per cent., were available for selection.

Number of selectors there is space for.

129. The maximum area which the law allows one person to select is 320 acres. It will be at once seen that supposing every selector should take up his full amount there would be room for 30,000 selectors in the portion of the Colony still remaining available for selection. Should the maximum be increased to 640 acres, there would of course be space for only half that number of selectors, or 15,000.

Extent available for selection, 1879 and 1880.

130. The difference between the extent available for selection at the end of 1879 and at the end of 1880 was 898,130 acres.

* This land may be selected for residence or cultivation under section 49 of the Land Act, 1869, in lots not exceeding 20 acres. The total extent already selected under this section is included in the first two items and amounts to 162,606 acres.

† Mallee scrub, lakes, &c., 11,000,000; mountain forests, 12,000,000.

The extent so available was equal at the former period to 18·7 per cent., and at the latter period to 17·1 per cent. of the whole area of the Colony.

Crown lands alienated, 1880.

131. The land alienated from the Crown in fee simple during 1880 amounted to 410,198 acres. Of this extent, 409,738 acres were sold, and 460 acres were granted without purchase. A gradual falling off in the area alienated annually had taken place between 1872 and 1879, but the extent alienated in 1880 was greater than in the last three years of the period named.

Amount realised on Crown land sales, 1880.

132. The amount realised for Crown lands sold in 1880 was 471,824*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 2*s.* 6½*d.* per acre. Of this sum only 172,517*l.* was received during the year, the remainder having been paid in former years as rents and license fees. The proportion sold by auction realised 81,715*l.*, or an average of 2*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.* per acre, and the proportion sold otherwise than at auction realised 390,109*l.*, or an average of 1*l.* 0*s.* 4¾*d.* per acre.

Amount realized, 1836 to 1880.

133. From the period of the first settlement of the Colony to the end of 1880 the amount realised by the sale of Crown lands was 19,608,396*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 12*s.* 3½*d.* per acre.

Land selected.

134. The total area selected with right of purchase in 1880 amounted to 736,210 acres, or 282,244 acres less than in 1879. Of this extent 725,001 acres were taken up under the residence clause of the Land Acts of 1869 and 1878, and 11,209 acres under the non-residence clause of the latter. The average area to each resident selector was 180 acres, and to each non-resident selector 167 acres. The area selected was less than in any previous year since 1871. The above figures do not include residence selection on gold fields, of which 16,262 acres were taken up during the year.

Land occupied and cultivated.

135. A statement of the number of holdings, and of the extent of land occupied and cultivated in the year under review, and the previous one, will be found in the following table. All the items show increase:—

*Holdings and Land * occupied and cultivated,* 1880 *and* 1881.

Year ended 31st March.	Number of Holdings larger than One Acre.	Acres occupied.	Acres under Tillage.
1880 - -	48,969	16,620,900	1,688,275
1881 - -	49,505	18,220,891	1,993,916
Increase -	536	1,599,991	305,641

* The holdings and land referred to are exclusive of Crown lands held under squatting licenses.

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Land under principal crops.

136. The principal crops grown in Victoria are wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, hay, and green forage. In 1880–1, as compared with 1879–80, an increased area was placed under each of these, except oats and green forage. The extent under each except these two was, moreover, greater in 1880–1 than in any previous year, but that under oats was exceeded in six years and that under green forage in five years. During the past five years wheat was much more extensively cultivated than formerly. Prior to 1877 the extent under that crop never reached 400,000 acres. The following table shows the extent of land under each of these crops in the last two seasons :—

Land under Principal Crops, 1880 *and* 1881.

Year ended 31st March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Green Forage.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1880 - -	707,188	167,615	43,182	41,600	201,451	305,790
1881 - -	976,416	133,910	68,480	44,773	249,424	263,442
Increase -	269,228	—	25,298	3,173	47,973	—
Decrease -	—	33,705	—	—	—	42,348

Produce of principal crops.

137. The gross yield of wheat and hay was heavier in the past than in any previous season, that of barley was only exceeded and very slightly in 1879–80, but that of potatoes was exceeded on six, and that of oats on twelve occasions. The following is a statement of the gross produce of all the principal crops, except green forage, respecting which no return is made, in 1879–80, and 1880–1:—

Gross Produce of Principal Crops, 1880 *and* 1881.

Year ended 31st March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1880 - - -	9,398,858	4,023,271	1,065,430	167,943	292,407
1881 - - -	9,719,049	2,358,459	1,063,751	124,706	300,184
Increase -	320,191	—	—	—	7,777
Decrease -	—	1,664,812	1,679	43,237	—

Yield of principal crops, 1870 to 1880.

138. In the past season as compared with the 10 previous ones the acreable yield of wheat, oats, and potatoes was lower than in any other except that of 1878-9, that of hay was lower than in any except those of 1877–8 and 1870–1, and that of potatoes was lower than in any other season. This will be seen by the following table which shows the acreable yield of the five principal

crops during each of the last 11 years, also the average during the whole period:—

Average Produce of Principal Crops, 1871 *to* 1881.

Year ended 31st March.	Average Produce per Acre of				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1871 - -	10·10	14·98	12·26	3·27	1·13
1872 - -	13·45	18·76	20·00	3·22	1·40
1873 - -	16·51	19·55	20·86	3·45	1·32
1874 - -	13·58	15·69	19·84	2·86	1·27
1875 - -	14·57	18·46	21·01	3·53	1·32
1876 - -	15·49	21·92	22·20	3·37	1·33
1877 - -	13·15	19·91	21·18	3·31	1·22
1878 - -	12·41	19·39	19·81	3·11	1·18
1879 - -	8·76	17·60	18·24	2·71	1·21
1880 - -	13·29	24·00	24·67	4·04	1·45
1881 - -	9·95	17·61	15·53	2·79	1·20
Mean of 11 years	12·84	18·90	19·60	3·24	1·28

Live stock, 1871 and 1881.

139. The numbers of each description of live stock were returned as follow at the two last censuses of Victoria:—

Live Stock, 1871 *and* 1881.

Year of Census.	Horses.	Horned cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1871 - - -	209,025	776,727	10,477,976	180,109
1881 - - -	275,516	1,286,267	10,360,285	241,936
Increase in 10 years -	66,491	509,540	—	61,827
Decrease „ „	—	—	117,691	—

Gold raised, 1879 and 1880.

140. The quantity of gold raised in Victoria in 1880 and its value at 4*l.* per oz. are compared in the following table with the quantity and assumed value of the gold raised in 1879:—

Quantity and Value of Gold raised in 1879 *and* 1880.

Year.	Gold raised in Victoria.	
	Estimated Quantity.	Estimated Value at 4*l.* per oz.
	ozs.	£
1879 - - -	758,947	3,035,788
1880 - - -	829,121	3,316,484
Increase - -	70,174	280,696

VICTORIA.

Gold raised, 1870 to 1880.

141. Until 1879 the quantity of gold raised from year to year had been steadily diminishing, but a revival took place in 1880, the yield of gold in that year being above that in any other since 1876. The excess over the yield in 1879 was 70,000 ounces, valued at 280,000*l.* The following figures give an estimate of the quantity of gold raised in 1870 and each subsequent year:—

Estimated Quantity of Gold raised, 1870 *to* 1880.

	ozs.
1870 - - - -	1,222,798
1871 - - - -	1,355,477
1872 - - - -	1,282,521
1873 - - - -	1,241,205
1874 - - - -	1,155,972
1875 - - - -	1,095,787
1876 - - - -	963,760
1877 - - - -	809,653
1878 - - - -	775,272
1879 - - - -	758,947
1880 - - - -	829,121

Gold raised, 1851 to 1880.

142. Carrying on to the end of 1880 the calculations given in previous years, the following may be estimated as the total quantity and value of the gold raised in Victoria from the period of its first discovery in 1851. These figures give an average per annum during the whole period of about 1,654,891 oz., which is nearly twice the quantity raised in 1880:—

Estimated Total Quantity and Value of Gold raised in Victoria, 1851 *to* 1880.

Gold raised in Victoria.	Estimated Quantity.	Estimated Value at 4*l.* per oz.
	ozs.	£
Prior to 1880 - - -	48,817,596	195,270,384
During 1880 - - -	829,121	3,316,484
Total - -	49,646,717	198,586,868

Value of gold per miner.

143. The estimated value of gold raised in proportion to the number of miners at work* was greater in 1880 than in 1879, but less than in any other year since 1870. During the 11 years ended with 1880 the average per miner was highest in 1875, when it exceeded that in 1880 by 22*l.* 5*s.* 4¼*d.*, and was lowest in 1870, when it was less than that in 1880 by 18*s.* 5¼*d.* The

* For the number of gold miners at work at the end of each year, *see* paragraph 22, *ante*.

following figures, which have been taken from the reports of the Secretary for Mines, express this proportion for each of those years :—

*Value of Gold per Miner,** 1870 *to* 1880.

	£	s.	d.
1870 - - - -	81	0	6½
1871 - - - -	93	6	1½
1872 - - - -	93	17	1½
1873 - - - -	93	16	2½
1874 - - - -	99	8	3
1875 - - - -	104	4	4
1876 - - - -	89	19	6¾
1877 - - - -	82	6	1¾
1878 - - - -	82	12	11½
1879 - - - -	76	1	2¼
1880 - - - -	81	18	11¾

144. The number of buildings used for public worship, of persons such buildings could accommodate, of those usually attending divine service, and of the services performed in connexion with each religious denomination, were returned as follows for the year 1880 :— Churches and clergy.

Churches, 1880.

Religious Denomination.	Churches and other Buildings used for Public Worship.			Approximate Number of Services during the Year.
	Number.	Persons for whom there is Accommodation.	Persons usually attending at Principal Service.	
Church of England -	573	76,402	44,825	29,199
Presbyterians - -	860	82,730	72,839	44,035
Methodists - -	912	98,071	70,000	106,122
Independents - -	107	18,005	9,360	10,012
Baptists - -	77	13,400	7,325	8,238
Bible Christians - -	112	11,372	4,875	7,111
Evangelical Lutherans -	45	4,630	3,350	3,088
Welsh Calvinists -	5	900	520	688
Church of Christ - -	46	6,380	2,288	3,693
Society of Friends -	2	200	50	208
Moravians - -	2	300	140	1,500
Protestants Unattached -	19	3,525	2,700	1,518
Roman Catholics -	531	98,791	70,780	48,638
Unitarians - -	1	200	90	78
Swedenborgians - -	2	150	63	110
Catholic and Apostolic -	4	530	190	1,328
Christian Israelites -	1	200	65	156
Spiritualists - -	2	1,800	400	80
Jews - - -	6	1,784	489	1,274
Total - -	3,307	419,370	290,349	267,076

* These amounts are sometimes incorrectly spoken of as the "average earnings" of the miners. I have pointed out on former occasions that, as a very large proportion of the miners are working on wages, the gold they raise no more represents their individual earnings than do the products of a manufactory represent the earnings of its operatives.

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Increase or decrease in churches.

145. The returns, as compared with those of the previous year, show an increase of 417 in the number of places of worship, of sitting accommodation equal to that for 5,500 persons, of 16,000 in the attendance at the principal services on the Sabbath, and of no less than 40,000 in the number of services performed.

Sabbath schools.

146. The number of Sabbath schools attached to each religious sect, the number of teachers, and the number of scholars were returned as follows for 1880:

Sabbath Schools, 1880.

Religious Denomination.	Number of Sabbath Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Average Number of Scholars attending.
Church of England - -	316	2,540	23,418
Presbyterians - - -	345	2,723	27,763
Methodists - - -	541	4,950	36,216
Indpendents * - - -	61	797	5,922
Baptists - - -	51	507	5,210
Bible Christians - -	58	616	2,282
Evangelical Lutherans - -	20	64	884
Welsh Calvinists - -	5	77	575
Church of Christ - -	23	184	1,280
Society of Friends - -	1	2	10
Moravians - - -	2	4	47
Protestants Unattached - -	10	98	1,203
Roman Catholic - -	300	1,454	24,933
Unitarians - - -	1	4	24
Swedenborgians - -	1	6	33
Christian Israelite - -	1	5	39
Spiritualists - - -	1	19	105
Jews - - - -	5	13	330
Total -	1,742	14,063	130,274

Increase in 1880.

147. As compared with the numbers in 1879, the Sabbath schools increased by 144, the teachers by 743 and the scholars by 10,504.

148. For complete information on many points which have been merely touched upon, and on others which are not even mentioned in this digest, the reader is referred to the "Victorian Year Book,† 1880–81."

HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER,
Government Statist of Victoria.

* The Independents have not furnished any returns since 1877, the figures therefore are those for that year.

† This is an official publication by the Government Statist, published annually, and may be obtained from the Government Printer, Melbourne, or George Robertson, 17, Warwick Square, London.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY of VICTORIA from 1878 to 1880 inclusive.*

Year.	Population on 31st December.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration.	Emigration.	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.	Crown Land Sales.		Land in Cultivation.	Live Stock.				Postage.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.								Area sold.	Amount realised.		Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	No. of Post Offices.	Number of Letters.	No. of Newspapers.
									£	£	Acres.	£	Acres.							
1878	827,439	435,691	391,748	26,581	12,702	5,092	42,268	37,492	4,504,413	4,634,349	307,457	375,535	1,609,278	210,105	1,184,843	9,379,276	177,373	1,007	22,324,931	10,697,331
1879	840,620	441,434	399,186	26,839	12,120	4,986	44,384	39,212	4,621,520	4,833,379	283,191	384,432	1,688,275	216,710	1,129,358	8,651,775	144,733	1,069	23,215,648	10,075,407
1880	860,067	451,456	408,611	26,148	11,652	5,287	56,955	45,294	4,621,282	4,875,029	409,738	471,824	1,993,916	275,446	1,285,613	10,355,282	241,836	1,100	24,195,149	10,640,540

Continued.

Year.	Shipping.				Vessels built.		Vessels registered.		Mortgages and Liens.		Imports.	Imports of		Exports.	Exports of							
	Inwards.		Outwards.									Breadstuffs (Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit).			Wool.		Tallow.		Hides and Skins.	Breadstuff (Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit).	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Amount secured.	Total Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Total Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
										£	£	Bushels.	£	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	£	Bush.	£
1878	2,119	951,750	2,173	961,677	11	509	33	6,421	9,655	6,233,752	16,161,880	59,420	14,699	14,925,707	101,809,809	5,810,148	7,387,520	103,879	29,123	1,065,388	311,670
1879	2,084	963,987	2,083	977,135	4	146	23	5,227	12,063	7,358,952	15,035,538	83,837	20,763	12,454,170	95,628,281	5,269,634	11,780,160	150,867	50,902	1,041,221	272,438
1880	2,076	1,078,885	2,115	1,101,014	4	205	18	7,830	—	—	14,556,894	155,345	33,061	15,954,559	112,486,058	6,417,453	15,097,600	192,394	97,392	3,734,078	886,980

* The Statistical Summary for the preceding and several previous years will be found printed in [C.-2730] of 1880 and [C.-2829] of 1881.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1878 to 1880 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Gold raised.		Public Debt on Dec. 31.	Government Expenditure on					Railways.			Electric Telegraphs.			Banks of Issue.			
	Estimated Quantity.	Value at 4*l.* per oz.		Railways.	Roads and Bridges.	Melbourne Water Supply (Yan Yean).	Other Water-works.	Other Public Works.	Miles opened.	Train Miles travelled.	Total Receipts.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams.	Number of Banks.	Paid-up Capital.	Assets.	Liabilities.
	oz.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			£					£	£	£
1878	775,272	3,101,088	17,022,065	935,666	11,888	86,229	37,947	313,039	1,052	3,633,190	1,391,701	233	5,404	1,003,654	13	9,188,653	26,096,185	17,715,867
1879	758,947	3,035,788	20,050,753	1,061,694	36,884	40,065	12,327	356,547	1,125	4,002,624	1,383,650	257	5,736	1,010,116	11	9,026,250	25,339,843	17,818,225
1880	829,121	3,316,484	22,060,749	1,988,916	24,945	47,094	84,413	383,751	1,199	4,380,802	1,492,917	284	6,019	1,160,912	11	9,123,250	24,334,653	18,273,807

Continued.

Year.	Savings Banks.			Friendly Societies.		Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.			Shires and Road Districts.			Flour Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c. (exclusive of Flour Mills).	Mining Machines.	Churches and Chapels.	Schools.		Melbourne University.		Number of Persons			
	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Balances.	Number of Branches.	Average Number of Members.	Number.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.	Number.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.					Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars on the Rolls.	Number of Matriculated Students.	Number of Direct Graduates.	Taken into Custody.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	Executed.
			£				£	£		£	£												
1878	184	76,697	1,510,273	759	45,692	59	31,887,816	453,665	114	52,545,666	455,593	149	2,194	4,428	2,815	2,249	267,042	114	24	25,544	658	458	—
1879	196	82,941	1,520,296	766	45,933	57	31,352,880	447,712	115	51,891,236	605,776	139	2,100	4,379	2,890	2,282	262,599	112	56	24,625	628	397	1
1880	202	92,114	1,661,409	748	46,074	57	31,199,480	416,765	117	52,647,936	405,187	—	—	—	3,307	—	—	151	49	23,983	680	398	1

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, Government Statist.

FIJI.

No. 2.

Governor G. W. DES VŒUX, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Fiji,
November 4, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of Fiji for 1880, with which I also enclose a letter containing some interesting remarks upon it by Mr. Thurston, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. W. DES VŒUX.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT on the FIJI BLUE BOOK for 1880.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

No material alteration was made during the year in the taxation of the Colony.

By Ordinance No. 1 of 1880 a Statute of New South Wales providing for the imposition of Stamp Duties (temporarily adopted shortly after the foundation of the Colony) was repealed, and provisions made more consonant with the circumstances of the Colony. This Ordinance came into force upon the 1st March, and the result was beneficial to the revenue.

By Ordinance No. 5 of 1880 a temporary land tax upon all lands granted by the Crown prior to 30th September 1881 was brought into force. The object of the tax was to meet expenses connected with the effort to extinguish coffee leaf disease which had been introduced from Ceylon. The sum received under this head during the year amounted to 358*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

Tariffs of fees in respect to the following Ordinances were legalised, and came into operation during the year.

The Harbour Ordinance, 1880.
The Marine Board Ordinance, 1880.
The Intestate and Vacant Estates Ordinance, 1880.
The Native Lands Ordinance, 1880.

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Receipts and Expenditure.

The balance brought forward from 1879 was 16,790*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*

The revenue, omitting fractions, and exclusive of receipts under the head of Immigration, which are merely items of account, has been as follows:—

	1880.	1879.
	£	£
Customs	23,995	20,415
Warehouse and wharf dues	2,032	584
Pilot, light, and shipping dues	1,127	774
General licenses	2,794	2,538
Native taxes	15,485	19,885
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	933	910
Miscellaneous	2,276	2,061
Stamps	2,281	1,447
Land sales, grants, and surveys	5,273	2,825
Rent	42	195
Registration fees	327	212
Temporary land tax	358	—
Total	56,923	51,846

The receipts from the above sources, though falling short of the estimated revenue by the sum of 5,000*l.*, may, on the whole, be regarded as satisfactory. The advance in customs, warehouse, and shipping dues indicate a steady increase in commercial transactions, and, as might be expected when such is the case, the receipts under the head of stamps has increased in greater ratio than any other item of revenue.

The only sensible decrease of receipts under any heading is in respect of native taxes, and in this case, and notwithstanding the advent of a serious hurricane in December 1879, which affected the revenue derived from this source, the falling-off is more apparent than real.

The natives of Fiji pay their taxes not in money but in produce, consisting chiefly of copra, cotton, maize, and other articles of commercial value and constant demand. This produce is collected by the Government, and sold annually by tender to the highest bidder. During 1880 the value of copra, the principle article in which native taxes are paid, fell in the European markets to nearly 50 per cent. below the prices ruling at the beginning of the year 1880. The contractors for its purchase, moreover, became bankrupt. In the then uncertain state of the market no satisfactory offers were made by other traders, and the sale of a considerable quantity of copra was in consequence unavoidably delayed until after the accounts of the year were closed. Some receipts, therefore, under this head may be regarded as being deferred, and should appear in the returns of 1881

Notwithstanding this untoward event the increase in actual revenue as compared with 1879 was a little over 5,000*l.*

The drafts on loan account for 1880 were 22,000*l.* as against 23,075*l.* in the preceding year.

The expenditure for the year, as compared with 1879, was:—

	1880.	1879.
	£	£
Establishments - - - -	28,438	27,759
Services - - - - -	35,846	27,515
Total - - - - -	64,284	55,274

The increase upon the previous year's expenditure was therefore 9,010*l.* Expenditure on account of loan as compared with 1879 was as follows:—

1879.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Indian immigration - -	13,548	5	8
2. Public Works, Suva - -	1,473	18	9
3. Queen's Wharf - - -	1,243	3	10
4. Liabilities, Fiji Government -	1,768	18	2
Total - - -	18,034	6	5

1880.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. Indian immigration - -	205	7	6
2. Public Works, Suva - -	5,510	12	9
3. Queen's Wharf - - -	45	19	0
4. Liabilities, Fijian Government -	9,539	6	2
5. Lands Commission and surveys -	7,051	3	8
6. Part purchase of yacht - -	2,500	0	0
Total - - - -	24,852	9	1

Local Revenues.

The receipt of local revenue is up to the present time confined to the town of Levuka, where a town board and a school board have been created by legal enactment. The revenue raised by the town board under authority of Ordinance No. 16 of 1877 was 1,154*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, and its expenditure 1,203*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* The revenue of the town is derived from a rate fixed annually upon all land and house property within its boundaries.

The receipts of the school board are derived from a rate also levied on house and real estate, and by an annual grant-in-aid from the general revenue of the Colony of an amount equal to the

sum so derived. The total receipts of the school board during the year were 945*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, and its expenditure was 944*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*

Public Debt.

During the last five years a sum of 105,000*l.*, to be repaid as the circumstances of the Colony will permit, has been advanced by the Imperial Government in aid of the general revenue of the Colony.

The other items of debt shown in the Blue Book consists :—

(1.) 30,000*l.* raised under authority of Ordinance No. 13 of 1880; and of—

(2.) 75,000*l.*, the estimated liabilities of the late so called Fijian Government.

The expenditure of the sum first mentioned (30,000*l.*) has been devoted to the purposes of Indian immigration, and to necessary public works, of which some are of a recuperative character.

The second item, 75,000*l.*, represents approximately the claims of certain persons on account of loans and supplies furnished to the administrators of Cakoban's Government before the cession.

Her Majesty's Government absolutely declined any obligation to take up these liabilities, or to admit any demand made as of right, and to remove any doubts on the subject, the irresponsibility of the Crown was declared by Ordinance No. 17 of 1875.

The Colonial Government was, however, permitted after proper inquiry, and as an act of grace, to undertake the payment of so much of these debts as might appear fair and just for it to assume.

A Commission, consisting of the Attorney-General and the Receiver-General, was on the 24th June 1876, appointed to examine and report upon pecuniary claims against the Fijian Government on account of money or supplies furnished for public purposes. Their report recommended for payment claims amounting to 74,618*l.* 17*s.*, which were ultimately confirmed by Government, and although up to the close of the year claims amounting to 11,308*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* only had been paid, the sum of 75,000*l.* as originally estimated has been retained in the Blue Book as a recognised portion of the public debt. By the time these claims are finally settled the amount will probably be somewhat increased by accruing interest. The approximate undebtedness of the Colony at the end of the year 1880 may thus be stated as under :—

	£
Imperial grant-in-aid - -	150,000
Liabilities of Fijian Government -	75,000
Loan for public purposes - -	30,000
	255,000

Public Works.

An expenditure of 6,486*l.* 19*s.* was incurred in connexion with the formation of the new capital of the Colony at Suva in the

Island of Viti Levu. Of this sum 1,200*l.* was expended in reclamation and the construction of a wharf, 3,963*l.* in the formation and levelling of roads and streets, and the remainder in houses and hospitals for the workmen employed, and in necessary plant for carrying on the works.

The expenditure is defrayed from a loan of 150,000*l.*, authorised by Ordinance No. 13 of 1880, of which sum 25,000*l.* is appropriated for public works at Suva.

The first sale of town lands at the new seat of Government took place in November. The lots were sold at public auction, and the sum realised exceeded 4,000*l.* It is estimated that the greater part, if not the whole, of the cost of forming the new town will in time be recouped by the sale of that portion of the land belonging to the Crown.

Buildings at the quarantine station were completed during the year at a cost of 254*l.* At Levuka a new wooden gaol was furnished at a cost of 172*l.* 17*s.* and 70*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* respectively.

Upon the construction of roads in different parts of the Colony the sum of 493*l.* only was spent, and this expenditure was chiefly for supervision, tools, and rations, the labour being performed by natives sentenced to penal servitude. Repairs and additions to public buildings or works already completed cost 1,225*l.*

Legislation.

There were 25 Ordinances enacted during the year 1881.

Ordinance No. 1.—To impose stamp duties (proclaimed 21st February).

Ordinance No. 2.—For the regulation of harbours and shipping therein (proclaimed 8th March).

Ordinance No. 3.—To provide for the appointment of a Marine Board.

Ordinance No. 4.—To confer certain powers on a Commission appointed to investigate certain alleged errors in the census of the native population.

Ordinance No. 5.—To impose a rate for certain purposes on land granted previous to the 30th September 1881 (proclaimed 24th April).

Ordinance No. 6.—To encourage and protect life assurance and other like provident arrangements for the benefit of insurers, their wives and families.

Ordinance No. 7.—To prohibit the use of dynamite and other explosive for the purpose of catching or destroying fish.

Ordinance No. 8.—To provide for the administration of intestate and vacant estates.

Ordinance No. 9.—To make provision for the prevention and cure of contagious diseases.

Ordinance No. 10.—To amend Ordinance No. 11 of 1877, entitled an "Ordinance with regard to the employment of Poly-

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nesians," by authorising the payment of the cost of Polynesian immigration to extend over a period of three years.

Ordinance No. 11. — To authorise the expenditure of 9,349*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* in excess of the sum sanctioned for the service of the year 1879.

Ordinance No. 12.—To authorise the raising of a loan in aid of immigration.

The object of this enactment was to authorise the Governor to raise 20,000*l.* by issue of debentures in aid of Polynesian immigration, and for the purpose of enabling persons employing such labourers to pay the cost of introduction in three instalments, as provided for in Ordinance No. 10. The operation of this Ordinance was reserved, pending the receipt of Her Majesty's gracious confirmation and allowance. It was not confirmed.

Ordinance No. 13.—Repealed the Loan Ordinances of 1878 and 1879, re-enacted their provisions, and amended the schedule of probable appropriation under the following heads: Payment of liabilities of late so called Fijian Government, roads, quays, drainage, water supply, and public works at Suva, lighthouses, immigration, lands Commission, pier at Levuka, part purchase money of yacht.

No expenditure under the last item (3,500*l.*) is now required, as the intention of employing a steam yacht in the joint service of the Governor of the Colony and the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific has been abandoned.

Ordinance No. 14.—Defines the public rights in the rivers and streams of the Colony, and vests all such rivers, and the soil under them, in the Crown.

This Ordinance has not yet been proclaimed.

Ordinance No. 15. — "Regarding Contracts."

This Ordinance amending and defining the law has not yet been proclaimed.

Ordinance No. 16 — "As to Contracts of Sale," amends and consolidates the pre-existing laws. It has not been proclaimed.

Ordinance No. 17—To provide for the establishment of a Savings Bank. The intention of this enactment is to encourage provident habits among the natives, half castes, and poorer classes of Europeans who, though in many cases disposed to save a part of their earnings, have no present safe and easy mode of doing so. This Ordinance also awaits proclamation.

Ordinance No. 18.—"To establish industrial schools for natives." This Ordinance is a very important one, and may be expected to greatly promote the welfare of the native population of the Colony. Its object is to teach a certain selected number of native lads useful arts, such as are not known, or only practised in primitive modes, amongst the native population, in order to the greater diffusion of such arts among the Fijians.

The Ordinance provides that two such industrial schools be established under the supervision of a Board appointed for the purpose.

One such school has already been established at Vanua Levu, and the work in connexion with it has evoked the warm and active co-operation of the native Chiefs and people.

Ordinance No 19 is to enable the Colonial Sugar Refining Company to carry on business in the Colony.

This Ordinance contains the usual provisions for registration, suing, or being sued on contracts, &c., and removes any doubts as to whether the Company which is established at Sydney, New South Wales, and is an unincorporated joint stock company, without limited liability of its partners, can carry on business in its company name under the "Partnership Consolidation and "Limited Liability Ordinance of 1878."

Ordinance No. 20 continued in force for one year the Ordinance No. 13 of 1879 amending No. 9 of 1875 "for the preservation of "the public health."

Ordinance No. 21 "relating to native lands."—This Ordinance settling as it does the legal tenure of lands belonging to native Fijians is one of the most important that has been passed since the foundation of the Colony. It was drawn by his Excellency Sir Arthur Gordon and Chief Justice Gorrie, after long and careful inquiry as to the use and enjoyment of lands according to ancient customs, and was passed upon the 30th October. Among other things it is provided that the tenure of the lands belonging to the native Fijians, as derived from their ancestors, and evidenced by tradition and usage, shall be the legal tenure thereof; that native owners shall enjoy all the same rights and remedies in regard to questions of ownership, trespass, &c., &c. as Crown grantees: that native lands shall be inalienable to persons not being native Fijians except through the Crown: that with the approval of the Governor natives may lease land for periods not exceeding 21 years. Provision is also made for ascertaining and defining the native lands in each province, and for their registration both in the English and native languages. Should any division of a tribe cease to exist by the extinction of its members, the lands fall to the Crown as "*ultimus hæres.*" Should any such division of a tribe so increase in numbers as to render the lands belonging to it insufficient for their maintenance the Crown may grant any land falling to it in the manner last indicated, or may acquire land for the same purpose by purchase.

The foregoing remarks indicate the principal features of the enactment, but it is impossible within the limits of this brief report to enter into the important and interesting question of native land tenure in Fiji in the manner the subject deserves, suffice it here to say that the subject has received the most exhaustive and careful consideration at the hands of persons of both races most competent to deal with the question: that the pre-existing and not unnatural doubt and anxiety of the native race, singularly well informed as to what has happened in Australia, New Zealand, and New Caledonia in respect of the rights of native owners of the soil, have been succeeded by feelings of satisfaction and perfect

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trust in the Government, that at the earliest possible stage in the history of the Colony, the delicate and ever vexed question of native land tenure has been met and set at rest in such a manner as to preclude, it is hoped, those occurrences which in some parts of the Empire have unhappily occasioned enormous expenses, and given the greatest anxiety to Her Majesty's Government.

Ordinance No. 22 prohibits persons not being residents from landing or remaining at Mualeon during the continuance of the Bose Naka Turaga.

The provisions of this Ordinance are usually enacted annually with respect to the particular place in the Colony where the great annual Council of Chiefs, or "Bose Vaka Turaga" is held, and was found necessary to prevent the influx at such meetings of pedlars, sly grog sellers, and other persons whose presence, as shown by experience, gave rise to great evil and inconvenience.

Ordinance 23 amends Ordinance No. 10 of 1877, entitled "An Ordinance to regulate and control the hiring and service of "native labourers within the Colony," and provides that employers must return labourers to their homes within 14 days of the expiration of their contract, under a penalty not exceeding the sum of 5*l.*, or one month's imprisonment in each case.

Ordinance No. 24 continues for a further period the Ordinance No. 16 of 1875 providing for the judicial administration of certain districts of the Colony.

Ordinance No. 25, regarding quarantine, re-enacts and amends the previous law upon the subject.

Civil Establishment.

The only change of moment in 1880 was the appointment of George William des Vœux, Esquire, C.M.G., as successor to the Honourable Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon, G.C.M.G., in the Governorship of the Colony. Mr. des Vœux had previously administered the Government of Fiji from June 1878 to September 1879, during the absence of Sir Arthur Gordon in England.

His Excellency assumed the duties of administration upon the 20th December.

The other changes in the civil establishment were few, of minor consequence, and require no special notice.

Pensions.

The pensions payable out of the revenues of the Colony are at present confined to native Fijians. In the aggregate they amount to 1,611*l.* annually, of which 1,500*l.* is received by Cakoban, the ex-King, for the maintenance of himself and family, and for the surrender of certain rights and privileges enjoyed by him before cession.

Consuls.

The nationalities represented by Consuls, or Consular Agents, are the United States of America, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland.

Population.

The total population of the Colony as ascertained upon the most trustworthy data obtainable for the purposes of a census in January 1880 is as follows:—Europeans, 2,193,; Fijians, 115,635; Polynesians, 5,637; Asiatics, chiefly natives of British India, 588.

Of the Europeans 1,490 are males and 703 females, of the Fijians 61,836 are males and 53,799 are females. Of the other races six sevenths of the whole are males. The total increase in the European population during the year was only 74, and for the same period the birth rate per 1,000 was 27·81, the death rate 18·23, and the marriage rate 7·29.

The total population of the Colony is 124,902.

Until a correct, or approximately correct census of the native population is taken it will not be possible to express any positive conclusions in connexion with it. Such a census has been taken in the present year 1881, but is not yet published.

The result of the first attempt to take the Fijian population was made in January 1880 the people were divided into four classes, viz.—

Aged - - - -	17,574
Middle aged - - -	36,245
Youths - - - -	28,444
Children - - - -	33,372
Total - -	115,635

During the year there was registered by the Fijians, births 4,091, deaths 3,966, marriages 1,232.

The area of the Colony is estimated at 7,740 square miles. It is divided into 12 provinces, 139 districts, and contains 1,219 native towns.

In consequence of certain positive allegations made by the Rev. Mr. Rooney, a Wesleyan Missionary, as to errors in the official estimate of the native population, its alarmingly rapid decrease, and the causes thereof, a commission was appointed by Governor Sir Arthur Gordon to investigate and report upon such allegations.

The Commission, consisting of the Hon. William McGregor, M.D., the Receiver General, and Chief Medical Officer of the Colony, and Philip Samuel Solomon, Esq., Editor of the "Fijian Times" newspaper, visited the several districts specially referred to by Mr. Rooney, and upon the state of which his allegations were based.

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Their careful and voluminous report was presented to the Governor upon the 25th October 1880.

The following is a summary of the report :—

That Mr. Rooney, who was examined "admitted the correctness "of the Government census for his entire district," and that as this district comprises 270 native villages and contains a population of 28,000 (about one fourth of the whole native population of the Colony), such admission was strong testimony of the general trustworthiness of the whole census.

The Rev. Mr. Langham, Chairman of the Mission, and in charge of a different circuit, "did not call in question the correct- "ness of the Government returns for his district." It would appear, therefore, that the confidence of these gentlemen in the census returns was not less, when brought to the test, than that of the Government.

For all practical purposes the census of 1879 was found sufficient.

One of the most important subjects for the consideration of the Commission was to determine whether births or deaths predominated among the natives, in other words whether the population was increasing, decreasing, or remaining stationary.

The Commission found the death rate to be slightly in excess of the birth rate. In 42 native villages, containing an aggregate population of 4,348, it was found that in 1879 the deaths had been 192 and the births 177, that is to say, a birth rate of 40·70 and a death rate of 44·16 per 1,000.

The prevalent cause of death was dysentery, and not the several causes indicated by Mr. Rooney.

The wide spread belief existing among Europeans that abortion is frequently procured among Fijians did not appear to the Commission, which went searchingly into this point, to rest on any firm ground.

The Commission made some valuable suggestions regarding quarantine, and in connexion with the necessity for exercising every effort to exclude disease from abroad, dwelt with great force upon the terrible blow suffered by the natives from the epidemic of measles in 1875. It advocates the taking of another and more careful census; a better system of registering births and deaths; an improvement in the treatment of the sick, and in the case of children; deprecated the habit, so common among Fijians of spending a greater part of the night in singing and dancing, heating themselves by exercise, and cooling themselves in the grass wet with dew. As regards the practical question of sanitation the Commission appears to think that the condition of natives was, in this respect, better before than after annexation.

They say "many of the towns visited were in an unsatisfactory "state. Several of them were placed on low and damp sites. "Many of them are surrounded by the remains of war trenches "that have partially fallen in, forming pools of filthy, stagnant

" water, and offensive puddles. Other towns use unwholesome " water for drinking and cooking, many of them should be " shifted to better sites. Others should have the war fosse filled " up, unless its position would make it possible to drain it, in " which case it should be kept dry and clean. The scrub sur- " rounding every town should be cut down so as not to act as " a screen for filth. We think it possible that the towns were in " a much better sanitary condition prior to civilization and " annexation, than they are now. The necessity of keeping the " moat in repair to prevent surprise in war time, and the obli- " gation of keeping the environs of the town clear of scrub, to " prevent an enemy concealing himself there, had an influence " then on the sanitary condition of the towns that could not now " be obtained without a number of inspectors.

Ecclesiastical.

There is no ecclesiastical establishment, the churches being supported entirely by voluntary contributions. There are in the Colony 12 Roman Catholic priests, two ministers of the Church of England, and nine Wesleyan missionaries.

The Roman Catholics have 57 churches and other places of worship, and the Wesleyan missionaries 1,208 chapels and other places.

The following is probably a fair estimate of the religious division of the population.

Wesleyan - - - -	103,000
Roman Catholics - - -	9,000
Church of England -	1,900
Jews - - - -	25
Unknown and heathen -	10,977
Total - -	124,902

Education.

Ordinance No. 10 of 1879, entitled " An Ordinance to provide " for public schools," provides for the establishment of both common and high schools. Up to the close of the year 1880, one common school at Levuka only had been opened. The number of scholars already exceeds 200, aud the attendance and general success of the school has been most encouraging. The instruction is strictly secular. The teachers are duly qualified persons under the Education Act of New South Wales, and were selected by the President of the Council of Education of that Colony.

Under Ordinance No. 18 of 1880 the Government has provided for the establishment of native industrial schools.

This Ordinance will be carried into effect during 1881. The Wesleyan Mission has 1,391 Sunday schools, with an estimated attendance of 40,728 persons, and 1,760 week-day schools with an

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attendance of 40,323 pupils. At these latter schools the course of instruction embraces reading, writing, geography, and arithmetic. The civilizing influences of these schools cannot but have a beneficial effect upon the native race, not easily estimated. The system and its results are alike honourable and creditable to the mission. The Roman Catholic Mission have four principal schools, with an attendance of 160 scholars, at which religious instruction is given, also 50 other schools as to which neither the attendance nor the nature of the instruction given has been communicated by the mission.

There are two private schools for European children, one at Reeva another at Taviuni.

Two newspapers are published at Levuka, the "Fiji Times" twice and the "Argus" once a week.

Coins and Exchanges.

The currency is exclusively British and there is an export duty on silver coin. The only legal weights and measures are the British standards. Accounts are kept in pounds, shillings, and pence.

Exchange on bills payable in the Australian Colonies and New Zealand is from 1 to 2 per cent., payable in England 2½ per cent.

Trade.

The following statements show the value of the imports and exports for the last three years:—

Total Value of the Import and Export Trade of the Colony. Value of the total Imports and Exports of the Colony distinguishing between Produce raised in the Colony and Produce imported for Exportation.

——	1878.			1879.			1880.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Imports - - -	136,607	15	1	142,212	11	5	185,740	13	10
Exports:									
Produce raised in the Colony	146,845	8	0	132,513	18	0	177,912	6	4
Imported produce exported -	46,020	0	0	36,526	10	0	51,616	4	0
Total - - -	192,865	8	0	169,040	8	0	229,528	10	4
Total of imports and exports	329,473	3	1	311,252	19	5	415,269	4	2

Total Value of the Imports from British Possessions, Polynesian Islands, and other Countries.

	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From British Possessions -	133,079 15 1	135,398 3 7	180,452 2 4
From Polynesian Islands -	758 0 0	979 14 1	2,289 7 6
From other Countries -	2,770 0 0	5,834 13 9	2,999 4 0
Total - - -	136,607 15 1	142,212 11 5	185,740 13 10

Value of Total Exports to British Possessions and to other Countries respectively.

	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Exported to British Possessions	154,015 17 0	132,150 15 0	212,144 9 4
Exported to other Countries -	38,849 11 0	36,889 13 0	17,384 1 0
Total - - -	192,865 8 0	169,040 8 0	229,528 10 4

The returns, when the condition of the Colony is taken into account, indicate a rapid advance in trade, and as a large amount of the capital has been invested during the last three years in sugar and coffee plantations, the results of which will shortly appear, there is little reason to doubt its continuance.

While a not inconsiderable portion of the exports of the Colony find their way to foreign countries, principally Germany, it will be observed with the exception of a few thousand pounds the whole of its imports are from British possessions.

Shipping.

The total number of ships and their tonnage entered and cleared in the last three years were as follows:—

	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1878 - - -	124	23,180	128	24,080
1879 - - -	131	28,967	125	28,085
1880 - - -	157	32,933	150	32,689

Agriculture.

No correct returns have yet been received in respect to the area in cultivation of the staple productions of the Colony, but this defect is now being remedied. The cultivation of sugar and coffee is making great strides, and large plantations are now being opened up, not only by European settlers, but by the natives. Cacao, chinchona, tobacco, and other tropical productions are all commanding attention, and considerable results are anticipated two or three years hence. There are now six sugar mills in operation in the Colony, and one, in the course of erection, that will be capable of putting out 500 tons of sugar per month.

The proprietors of this latter mill are the Colonial Sugar Company of New South Wales. The sources of labour are India, the neighbouring Islands of Polynesia (or more strictly speaking Melanesia) and native Fijians. The supply of Fijian labour is however by no means certain, as the natives of the Colony are generally fully employed upon their own affairs, and devote a large portion of their time to agriculture.

Crown Grants.

There were 52 Crown grants issued during the year, embracing in the aggregate 27,562 acres. The consideration for such grants was only nominal as they referred to lands acquired in a *bonâ fide* manner before cession. The total area of land granted in the Colony to the end of the year 1880 is 139,363 acres. It is impossible to estimate the acreage of lands ungranted, and it will take years to complete the survey of the numerous Islands contained within the group. The Land Claims Commission has not yet concluded its inquries into the claims advanced by Europeans on account of lands acquired, or alleged to have been acquired, before cession, and there doubtless remains a considerable area of land to which claims will be admitted.

Gaols.

The gaol accommodation throughout the Colony is in every way inadequate. Fortunate it is that there is comparatively little crime among the native race, and equally so that although a physically strong and warlike people, they are at present restrained by the moral respect due to constituted authority, nearly as well in a house built of reeds, as in a gaol built of stone. This tendency to submission cannot however be expected to last for many years. Contact with Europeans and the altering conditions of the Colony will gradually wear away the respect and obedience to authority inherent in almost every Fijian. At the date of cession it was almost impossible to induce natives guilty of criminal acts, to plead "Not Guilty." To their undisguised astonishment a plea of not guilty was entered on the record for self admitted criminals, and counsel assigned by the court for their defence. Native criminals are now, though slowly, learning

to defend themselves by lying, and in time native prisoners will doubtless endeavour to regain their liberty by breaking gaol. It is to be hoped that the finances of the Colony will admit of the construction of secure gaols before the *progress of civilization* has rendered them a greater necessity than at present.

Criminal Statistics.

Larceny appears to have increased during the year 1880, but considering the increasing temptations offered to the natives this need not be a matter for surprise. The convictions under this head as compared with previous years were:—

1878 - - - - -	128
1879 - - - - -	114
1880 - - - -	194

In the Supreme Court 10 convictions only were obtained, viz.:—Murder 1, manslaughter 2, rape 1, other offences against the person 4, larceny 1, other offences against property 1. Of summary convictions for offences against the person (chiefly consisting of trivial assaults) there were 891 cases, viz:—

Europeans - - - -	272
Fijians - - - -	444
Polynesians - - - -	175

Drunkenness is not, on the whole, a very common offence; the committals have been:—

	Europeans.	Natives.
1878 - - -	54	34
1879 - - -	54	39
1880 - - -	65	39

Fijians are naturally a temperate race, and the Native Council of Chiefs at its last session petitioned the Governor to prevent the supply of intoxicating liquor to natives by legislative enactment.

When considering the state of crime in the Colony as ascertained by official returns, it should be borne in mind that the total population of the Colony is 124,902, of which 96 per cent. are ives, commonly but erroneously described as savages.

(Signed) J. B. THURSTON.

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No. 3.

STATISTICS of NEW ZEALAND, 1880.

From the REGISTRAR GENERAL to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington,
November 10, 1881.

SIR,

IN submitting the volume of statistics for 1880 I have the honour to inform you that I had fully anticipated having been able to lay some of the earlier parts of the volume before Parliament during the recent session, but I was prevented doing so by the complete cessation of the printing of the tables in consequence of the pressure of parliamentary work. Tabular matter was in the printer's hands for about five months, waiting an opportunity to be set up, but that was found to be impossible. This delay, however unavoidable and beyond my control, is much to be regretted, as much of the value of some of the tables depends on an early publication. I confess that, from past experience, and knowing the simple impossibility of having any considerable number of the tables ready in time for the volume to be printed before the period about which Parliament generally meets, I do not entertain any expectation of being able in future to have the volume published at a much earlier period of the year.

PART I.—BLUE BOOK.

The usual corrections have been made in this portion, in order to make it complete to the end of 1880.

PART II.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population (exclusive of Maoris) on the 31st December 1880, was 484,864, being an increase during the year of 21,135, or at the rate of 4·5 per cent. The result of the census taken on the 3rd April 1881 shows that the above estimate was less than the correct amount by about 1,165 persons—the accumulated error of nearly three years— to be accounted for by the fact that many persons must have arrived in the Colony of whose arrival no record has been kept, and also probably by the fact that many births during the interval had not been registered. On the 3rd April 1881 there were, according to the census, 489,933 persons in the Colony; the increase during the first quarter of that year was, from excess of births over deaths, 3,113, and from excess of immigration over emigration, 668. These figures de-

ducted from the census numbers would give 486,152, or, if allowance be made for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd days of April, 486,029, as the correct population on the 31st December 1880. The ascertained increase during the year from excess of immigration over emigration was 7,231, and the increase from excess of births over deaths amounted to 13,904, this increase being greater than that in the previous year by 1,417. The total population of the Colony on the 3rd April 1881 was ascertained to be as follows:—

Population other than Maoris - -	489,933
Maori population - - -	44,099
Total population, including Maoris	534,032

Immigration.—The total ascertained arrivals in New Zealand during the year amounted to 15,154 persons, of whom 9,564 were males and 5,590 were females. Of the males, 8,092 were adults (or over 12 years of age), and 1,472 were children; of the females, 4,389 were adults and 1,201 children. The number of immigrants brought to the Colony at the public expense amounted to 2,689; the unassisted immigrants numbered 12,465; of these 296 were Chinese. Of the unassisted immigrants, 5,825 came from the United Kingdom; 5,899 (including 296 Chinese) from the Australian Colonies and Tasmania; 156 from Fiji; 482 from Hawaii, and South Seas (arrivals by the San Francisco steamers are entered in the customs as from Hawaii), and 103 from other ports.

Emigration.— The number of persons returned as having left the Colony during 1880 amounted to 7,923. Of these 683 went direct to the United Kingdom, 6,506 to the Australian Colonies and Tasmania, 178 to Fiji, 437 to Hawaii and the South Seas (the passengers for San Francisco being entered as for Hawaii), and 119 for other ports. There was thus, as regards the Australian Colonies and Tasmania, an excess of departures over arrivals to the extent of 607, this excess being caused by the number of persons leaving for New South Wales.

Aliens naturalized.— Fifty-seven natives of Foreign States were naturalized in 1880. Of these, 28 were natives of Germany and Austria; 14 were from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark; 2 were Chinese; and 13 were from other countries.

Vital Statistics.

Births.—The living births registered in 1880 amounted to 19,341, an increase on the births in 1879 of 1,271. The births in 1880 were at the rate of 40·78 per 1,000 of the mean population.

Sex.—Of the children born alive, 9,893 were males and 9,448 were females, being at the rate of 104·7 males to every 100 females.

Illegitimate Births.—The number of illegitimate births registered amounted to 471, or 2·43 per cent. of the total births. The rate in 1879 was 2·30, and in 1878 2·41 per cent.

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Marriages.—The number of marriages solemnised in 1880 amounted to 3,182, a reduction of 170 on the number of 1879. The proportion of persons married to every 1,000 living was 1,342 in 1880. This was the lowest proportion that has obtained during the past 10 years, and, taking the number of marriages as an index of the prosperity of the population, it would appear that the condition of the population was much below the average in 1880.

Forms of Marriage.—877 of the marriages, or 27 · 5 per cent. of the total number, were solemnised by ministers of one or other of the two Presbyterian Churches of New Zealand; 679, or 21 · 3 per cent., by ministers of the Church of England; 412, or 12 · 9 per cent., by ministers of the Roman Catholic Church; 317, or 9 · 9 per cent., by ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Society; 244 by ministers of other denominations; and 653, or 20 · 5 per cent., by registrars, an increase of 58 in the number and 2 · 7 on the per-centage of marriages by registrars in 1879.

Signatures of Marriages. — 88 men, or 2 · 7 per cent. of the number married, signed the register with marks, the proportion having been 3 · 3 in 1879 and 2 · 96 in 1878. Of the women married, 171, or 5 · 3 per cent., signed the register with marks; this is a marked decrease on the per-centage, 6 · 41 in 1879. In 1878 the per-centage was 6 · 87.

Ages of Persons Married.—Of the 3,181 women married 946, or 29 · 73, were under 21 years of age. Of these, one was a female of 11 years of age.

The following are the proportions at each age-period of men and women married to every 100 marriages in the last two years:—

Ages.	1879.		1880.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Under 21 - -	1·79	31·30	2·17	29·74
21–25 - -	28·55	38·76	27·29	41·02
25–30 - -	33·24	16·65	34·71	16·00
30–40 - -	26·23	9·91	25·62	9·84
40–50 - -	8·03	2·65	7·86	2·45
50–60 - -	1·58	0·54	1·60	0·72
60–70 - -	0·45	0·15	0·69	0·16
70 and upwards -	(3 marriages)		(1 marriage)	(1 marriage)

Deaths.—The deaths in 1880 numbered 5,437, equivalent to 11 · 46 per 1,000 of the population; the rate in 1879 was 12 · 46. The mean death rate for the last 10 years was 12 · 23 per 1,000. The mean death rate of the 42 years, 1838–79, in England was 22 · 2 per 1,000. Of the deaths in 1880, 2,458, or 45 · 20 per cent., were under 5 years of age.

The deaths of children under 1 year in 1880 amounted to 1,805, or 9 · 93 per cent. of the births. Although this proportion of infant

mortality is less than in 1879 (10·74), yet it is higher than in 1878 (8·36), or 1877 (9·06). The proportion for all England in 1879 was 13·5.

Sexes of deceased Persons.—Of the deaths, 3,171 were of males and 2,266 were of females, or 12·05 per 1,000 of the male population and 10·73 of the female; a mortality in equal numbers living of 112 males to 100 females.

Causes of Death.—The following table gives the classification of diseases which have terminated fatally, with the per-centage of each class and order of disease to the total mortality in 1879 and 1880:—

	1879.	1880.
CLASS. I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.		
Order 1. Miasmatic diseases	22·00	19·15
„ 2. Enthetic „	0·27	0·31
„ 3. Dietic „	2·18	2·26
„ 4. Parasitic „	0·70	0·66
	25·15	22·38
CLASS II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.		
Order 1. Diathetic diseases	3·06	3·15
„ 2. Tubercular „	10·52	11·86
	13·58	15·01
CLASS III.—LOCAL DISEASES.		
Order 1. Nervous diseases	10·48	9·91
„ 2. Circulation, diseases of	5·25	6·24
„ 3. Respiratory organs, diseases of	13·02	11·94
„ 4. Digestive organs „	6·32	7·15
„ 5. Urinary organs „	1·49	1·58
„ 6. Generative organs „	0·27	0·29
„ 7. Locomotive organs „	0·21	0·35
„ 8. Integumentary system „	0·16	0·26
	37·20	37·72
CLASS IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.		
Order 1. Children, diseases of	5·15	6·09
„ 2. Adults „	1·04	1·27
„ 3. Old people „	1·99	1·88
„ 4. Nutrition „	5·68	5·42
	13·86	14·66
CLASS V.—VIOLENCE.		
Order 1. Accident or negligence	8·27	8·33
„ 3. Homicide	0·11	0·20
„ 4. Suicide	0·75	0·70
„ 5. Execution	0·02	0·02
	9·15	9·25
Causes not defined	0·96	0·76
Abcess not defined	0·09	0·22

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Zymotic Diseases.—Ths deaths from these causes were actually and proportionately less than in 1879. In that year they numbered 1,404 or 25·15 per cent. of the total deaths; in 1880, 1,217, or 22·38 per cent.

The following were the differences in certain deaths of the miasmatic order of this class:—

—	1879.	1880.
Croup - - - - -	60	39
Whooping cough - - -	191	73
Typhus and typhoid fever - -	188	162
Dysentery - - - -	121	165
Diarrhœa - - - -	442	397

The deaths from diphtheria increased from 54 in 1879 to 89 in 1880.

Constitutional Diseases.—Among the deaths in this class there was an increase in those from cancer and phthisis, the numbers having been in the two years respectively—

—	1879.	1880.
Cancer - - - - -	118	133
Phthisis - - - -	399	447

Local Diseases.—The deaths from these diseases decreased from 2,077 in 1879 to 2,051 in 1880; but, while deaths from diseases of the nervous system decreased from 585 to 539, and deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs decreased from 727 to 649, deaths from diseases of the organs of circulation increased from 293 to 339.

Developmental Diseases.—These diseases caused 797 deaths in 1880 against 774 in 1879. The deaths from developmental diseases of children increased from 288 in 1879 to 331 in 1880.

Violent Deaths.—There were 503 deaths registered in 1880 in this class, against 511 in 1879. Of those in 1880, 409 were of males and 94 of females. Of these, the deaths of 372 males and 81 females were attributed to accident, of which the deaths by drowning amounted to 165, namely 145 males and 20 females; 2 males and 9 females met homicidal deaths, and 34 males and 4 females committed suicide.

Hospitals.—3,931 males and 1,254 females were admitted as patients into the 36 hospitals in the Colony during 1880. Including the inmates at the commencement of the year, 4,437 males and 1,385 females received relief during the year. The number of sleeping wards amounted to 160, with beds for 872 males and 310 females.

Lunatic Asylums.—There were 9 asylums in the beginning of the year, but that at New Plymouth was closed in August 1880.

The remaining 8 contained at the end of the year 724 male and 392 female patients; the male patients being in the ratio of 2·70 per 1,000 of the male population, and the female patients in the ratio of 1·81 of the female population, or, in equal numbers living, there were 148 male lunatics to every 100 female lunatics. The asylums in the aggregate afforded sleeping accommodation for 747 males and 385 females.

PART III.—TRADE AND INTERCHANGE.

Shipping.—The total shipping inwards at the various ports of the Colony was 730 vessels of 395,675 tonnage, being a decrease as compared with 1879 of 164 in the number of vessels, and 78,265 in the tonnage. Of the shipping inwards, 109 vessels of 108,153 tonnage arrived from the United Kingdom; 471 vessels of 230,861 tonnage from the Australian Colonies and Tasmania; 95 vessels of 38,436 tonnage from the Fijis and other Pacific Islands and the Sandwich Islands, the vessels from the latter (13 of 30,110 tonnage) consisting of the mail steamers from San Francisco which called there; 13 vessels of 5,581 tonnage arrived from the United States of America; 20 of 5,407 tonnage from the Mauritius; 8 vessels of 4,736 tonnage from other ports; and 14 vessels of 2,511 tonnage from the whale fisheries.

The total shipping outwards was 786 vessels of 424,041 tonnage, being a decrease as compared with 1879 of 122 in the number of vessels, and 51,711 in the tonnage. Of the vessels outwards, 582 of 346,741 tonnage cleared with cargoes, and 204 of 77,300 tonnage in ballast. Of those with cargoes, 144 vessels of 138,663 tonnage cleared for the United Kingdom; 295 vessels of 158,007 tonnage for the Australian Colonies and Tasmania; 113 vessels of 39,784 tonnage for the Pacific Islands, including those to the Fijis, and 13 mail steamers of 30,108 tonnage for San Francisco, which are cleared for the Sandwich Islands; 5 vessels of 2,061 tonnage for the United States; 13 vessels of 4,534 tonnage for the Cape Colony; 3 vessels of 715 tonnage for the Mauritius; 3 vessels of 1,065 tonnage for other ports; and 6 vessels of 1,912 tonnage for the whale fisheries.

Registered Vessels.—The number of vessels on the New Zealand register on the 31st December 1880 was 559 of 66,316 tonnage; of these, 434 of 51,039 tonnage were sailing vessels, and 125 of 15,277 tonnage were steam vessels.

Imports and Exports.—The total value of the imports in 1880 was 6,162,011*l.* against 8,374,585*l.* in 1879, being a decrease of 2,212,574*l.*, a decrease consequent on the reduced expenditure out of loans raised in England. The total value of the exports was 6,352,692*l.*, against 5,743,126*l.* in 1879. Of the exports in 1880, those being the produce and manufacture of the Colony amounted to 6,102,400*l.*

Value of total Trade.—The total trade of the Colony as represented by imports and exports amounted in 1880 to 26*l.* 7*s.* 8½*d.* per head of the mean population (excluding the aboriginal natives), a decrease on the trade in 1879 to the extent of 5*l.* 2*s.* 4½*d.* per head. As the aboriginal natives are to a certain extent consumers

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of imports, some allowance should be made on that account in estimating the trade per head. Assuming, as in former years, that every five Maoris consumed imports to the same extent as two Europeans, as their production of exports is very small, the total trade per head of the population other than the Maori would be reduced by about 9*s.* 3½*d.*

The trade with the United Kingdom amounted to 8,246,285*l.*; that with Victoria to 1,861,801*l.*; that with New South Wales to 1,176,606*l.*; that with Tasmania to 109,223*l.*; that with South Australia to 90,432*l.*; that with the United States to 343,158.; that with the Mauritius to 200,274*l.*; that with China to 139,898*l.*; and that with India to 103,885*l.* The trade with the Pacific Islands amounted to 162,031*l.*, of which that with the Fijis amounted to 55,521*l.*

The imports and exports per head of the mean population in 1880 were as follow:—

—	Mean Population in 1880, exclusive of Maoris.	Amount per Head of Population.
Imports:		
£		£ *s.* *d.*
6,162,011	474,296	12 19 10
Exports:		
£		
6,352,692	474,296	13 7 10½

In 1879 the imports amounted to 18*l.* 13*s.* 9½*d.*, and the exports to 12*l.* 16*s.* 3½*d.* per head.

Imports.—The following figures show the increase or decrease of the imports in the provincial district in 1880, as compared with 1879:—

Auckland -	- Decrease	£252,097 or 16·0	per cent.
Taranaki -	- „	1,073 or ·33	„
Hawke's Bay	- „	40,233 or 23·87	„
Wellington -	- „	596,220 or 37·42	„
Marlborough	- Increase	74 or 0·56	„
Nelson -	- Decrease	47,572 or 17·38	„
Westland -	- Increase	2,032 or 1·17	„
Canterbury -	- Decrease	368,689 or 21·71	„
Otago -	- „	908,784 or 31·37	„

A comparison of the total values of imports in 1879 and 1880, according to the countries whence they were received, gives the following results:—

—	1879.	1880.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - -	5,302,823	3,479,217	1,823,606
British Colonies - -	2,554,278	2,379,231	175,047
Foreign States - -	517,484	303,563	213,921

The chief increases or decreases in the values of imports from the British Possessions were as follow:—

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
New South Wales - - -	—	137,643
Victoria - - - -	—	115,873
South Australia - - -	15,019	—
Tasmania - - - -		34,331
Fijis - - - - -	7,691	—
Mauritius - - - -	39,934	—
India - - - - -	2,746	—
Singapore - - - -	6,270	—

The chief increases or decreases in the values of imports from Foreign States were—

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
United States - - - -	—	200,388
China - - - - -	37,629	—
Java - - - - -	—	10,164
Peru - - - - -	—	11,684
France - - - - -	—	9,140

The imports from the Pacific Islands (exclusive of those from the Fijis) increased from 28,837*l.* in 1879 to 50,940*l.* in 1880.

The imports from the whale fisheries decreased from 4,682*l.* in 1879 to 200*l.* in 1880.

Gold exported.—The value of the gold exported from New Zealand in 1880 was 1,220,263*l.*, against 1,134,641*l.* in 1879, an increase of 85,622*l.*; the amount entered for duty was 1,227,252*l.* The following table shows the increase or decrease of the amounts entered for duty for exportation in the districts mentioned:—

VALUE of GOLD entered for Duty on Exportation in 1879 and 1880 respectively.

—	1879.	1880.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Produce of the gold fields in the district of Auckland - - - - - -	154,295	176,416	22,121
Produce of the gold fields in the district of Marlborough - - - - -	3,460	5,650	2,190
Produce of the gold fields in the districts of Nelson and Westland - - - -	582,485	587,481	4,996
Produce of the gold fields in the district of Otago	407,868	457,705	49,837
Total - - - -	1,148,108	1,227,252	79,154

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The total amount of gold entered for duty on exportation from New Zealand to the 31st December 1880 amounted to 37,380,633*l.*

Wool exported.—The total quantity of wool exported in 1880 amounted to 66,860,150 lbs. of the declared value of 3,169,300*l.*, against 62,220,810 lbs. of the declared value of 3,126,439*l.* exported in 1879; an increase of 4,639,340 lbs., and of 42,861*l.* in the declared value. The increase in the wool production will be more accurately ascertained by dealing with the exports for the year ending on the 30th September *i.e.*, immediately preceding the spring shearing.

The exports for the last eight years, ending respectively on the 30th September, were as follow:—

Year ending 30th September.	Wool exported. lbs.
1873	42,233,470
1874	47,424,882
1875	49,942,148
1876	55,975,177
1877	56,520,278
1878	62,166,251
1879	62,643,497
1880	62,586,189

The wool produce for the year ending the 30th September, 1880 (principally the clip for the last quarter of 1879), was 57,298 lb. less in weight than the produce for the previous year. The fact that the export for the quarter ended 31st December, 1880, was greater than that for the similar quarter in the preceding year by 4,273,961 lb. will sufficiently account for the difference of the returns for the calendar year and the year ending the 30th September, as the returns for the last quarter properly appertain to the wool clip for 1880–81.

Value of Exports to different Countries.—In 1880 the exports from Dunedin amounted to 1,644,951*l.*, an increase of 44,502*l.* on the exports in 1879; the exports from Lyttelton amounted to 1,525,416*l.*, an increase of 245,794*l.* on the exports in 1879; the exports from Wellington amounted to 919,944*l.*, an increase of 81,043*l.* on the exports of 1879; the exports from Auckland amounted to 758,271*l.*, an increase of 206,422*l.* on the exports of 1879; the exports from Greymouth and Hokitika, in the aggregate, amounted to 493,557*l.*, against 434,820*l.* in 1879; and the exports from Invercargill and the Bluff amounted to 309,817*l.*, against 342,347*l.* in 1879, a decrease of 32,530*l.* Of the total exports, those to the United Kingdom amounted to 4,767,068*l.*; those to Victoria to 825,263*l.*, including gold of the value of 693,823*l.*; the exports to New South Wales amounted to 446,930*l.*, including gold and specie of the value of 309,162*l.*; the exports to South Australia amounted to 43,369*l.*; the exports to the United

States to 105,147*l.*; those to the Cape Colony to 35,017*l.*; and those to China to 24,710*l.*, including gold of the value of 22,402*l.* The exports to the Pacific Islands amounted to 83,967*l.*, of which the exports to the Fijis amounted to 28,397*l.*

Articles exported.—Of the articles exported, the mines yielded exports to the value of 1,242,075*l.*; the fisheries to the value of 8,945*l.*; the forests to the value of 300,461*l.*; the animals and their produce to the value of 3,487,199*l.*; agricultural products to the value of 963,948*l.*; and Colonial manufactures to the value of 49,701*l.*

Letters, Post Cards, &c.—The number of letters posted and delivered in the various postal districts amounted to 22,824,468; the number of post cards to 598,891; and the books and parcels to 1,673,450.

Newspapers.—The newspapers received and despatched amounted to 10,272,917.

As the above numbers for letters, &c., and newspapers include deliveries as well as postages, the numbers actually posted would probably be about one half the above numbers.

Telegraph Stations.—There were 236 telegraph stations in the Colony on the 31st December 1886. The number of private and press telegrams transmitted during the previous 12 months was 1,058,342, and the number of Government telegrams 246,370.

PART IV.—FINANCE, ACCUMULATION, AND PRODUCTION.

Revenue.—The customs revenue in 1880 amounted to 1,258,362*l.*, against 1,237,259*l.* in 1879, being an increase of 21,103*l.*, or 1·70 per cent. The following figures show the comparative amounts realised by this branch of the revenue during the 10 years 1871 to 1880 inclusive:—

	£		£	
1871	731,883	being a decrease of	34,047	or 4·44 per cent.
1872	813,279	being an increase of	81,396	or 11·12 „
1873	965,800	„ „	152,521	or 18·75 „
1874	1,188,948	„ „	223,148	or 23·10 „
1875	1,234,967	„ „	46,019	or 3·87 „
1876	1,206,791	being a decrease of	28,176	or 2·28 „
1877	1,224,906	being an increase of	18,115	or 1·50 „
1878	1,344,688	„ „	119,782	or 8·90 „
1879	1,237,259	being a decrease of	107,429	or 7·98 „
1880	1,258,362	being an increase of	21,103	or 1·70 „

The ordinary revenue in 1880 amounted to 2,895,128*l.*, being an increase on the ordinary revenue of 1879 to the extent of 128,294*l.* If the figures given be compared, the increase will not appear so great, but, as I explained in my report of last year, the sum of 49,409*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, being the unrealized proceeds of a sale of land in Wellington, should not appear as revenue until

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paid, and therefore the revenue for 1879, should be reduced by that amount. The territorial revenue in 1880 amounted to 389,914*l.*, against a similar revenue of 318,661*l.* in 1879. The total ordinary and territorial revenue in 1880 amounted to 3,285,042*l.*

Expenditure. — The ordinary expenditure amounted to 3,715,471*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*; the territorial expenditure to 304,379*l.* 14*s.*; or a total of ordinary and territorial expenditure of 4,019,850*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, being 734,808*l.* 7*s.* in excess of the ordinary and territorial revenue for the year.

In addition to the above ordinary and territorial expenditure there was a special expenditure of 2,228,990*l.* out of loans. Of this amount the expenditure on immigration amounted to 72,259*l.*; on railways and roads, to 1,229,835*l.*; on public buildings to 218,651*l.*; on contingent defence to 140,500*l.*; and on land purchases to 48,439*l.*

Debt of the Colony.—The total public debt of the Colony, consisting of debentures and Treasury bills in circulation, and advances outstanding on debentures and Treasury bills, on the 31st December 1880, amounted to 28,583,231*l.* As the accrued sinking fund amounted to 2,000,320*l.*, the net indebtedness was reduced to 26,582,910*l.* The total annual charge in respect of the debt, including the interest on advances, was 1,469,709*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* Of this 116,052*l.* was for payment to the sinking fund.

Railways.—The total length of railways open for traffic on the 31st March 1881 was 1,287 miles, 33 chains. The cost of construction of the extent so opened was (to the same date) 9,228,334*l.* The revenue, exclusive of postal services, amounted to 836,077*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, the expenditure to 521,957*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* The revenue actually received in excess of expenditure amounted to 313,905*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, equivalent to 3*l.* 8*s.* per cent. on the cost of construction.

Accumulation.

Banks.—The total average liabilities of the banks within the Colony during 1880 amounted to 9,550,177*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*; the total average assets to 14,220,275*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* The total capital paid up on the 31st December 1880 amounted to 5,450,000*l.*; the total aggregate amount of the last dividends declared to 384,000*l.*; and the total of reserved funds at the time of declaring such dividends to 2,670,416*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

As compared with 1879 there was in 1880 an increase in the average liabilities to the extent of 492,713*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, and a decrease in the average assets to the extent of 1,834,019*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*

Post Office Savings Bank.—There were 178 Post Office Savings Banks open at the close of 1880, an increase of 13 during the year; 16,137 accounts were opened during the year, and 12,217 accounts closed; 38,667 accounts remained open at the end of the year. The deposits during the year amounted to

864,441*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, and the withdrawals to 780,504*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, being an excess of deposits over withdrawals to the extent of 83,937*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* The average amount of deposits to the credit of each account at the close of the year was 23*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; the total amount standing to credit of all accounts was 903,765*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

Other Savings Banks.—In savings banks other than the Post Office Savings Bank the deposits in 1880 amounted to 179,722*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*; by Maoris to 80*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* The total amount to the credit of depositors on the 31st December 1880 was 245,226*l.* 8*s.*, of which the deposits by Maoris amounted to 335*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

The total accumulated amounts to credit of depositors in both classes of savings banks amounted to 1,148,992*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, an increase on the similar amount in 1879 of 158,654*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*

Money Orders.—The total number of money orders issued in New Zealand in 1880 was 135,648 against 117,999 in 1879. The total amount of these orders was 465,405*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* against 428,673*l.* in 1879.

Mortgages and Releases.—The total number of mortgages on land registered in 1880 was 10,543, representing the amount of 11,550,382*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; the releases were 5,642, representing the amount of 3,999,389*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*; the excess of mortgages over releases amounting to 7,550,993*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* Of the mortgages, 5,640, representing the amount of 6,808,626*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, were effected under the Land Transfer Act, and 4,903, representing the amount of 4,741,755*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, under the old system.

Production.

Crown Lands alienated.—The total area of Crown lands sold during the year amounted to 131,798 acres and 27 perches. The cash received amounted to 184,487*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* In addition, scrip representing the amount of 8,871*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* was received in payment for land purchased. The alienations without sale amounted to 41,972 acres, of which 15,224 acres were for public reserves, and 17,273 acres to natives or Europeans by grants under Native Lands Acts.

Deferred Payments.—The total amount of land taken up on deferred payments from the beginning of the system to the 31st December 1880, was 487,980 acres and 23 perches, for which the receipts in cash have been 187,005*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* The land taken up during the year 1880 amounted to 136,739 acres 1 rood 30 perches. The total amount forfeited to the 31st December 1880, was 39,143 acres 35 perches, and the land taken up which had been finally alienated, the payments having been completed, amounted on the 31st December 1880 to 98,302 acres 1 rood 7 perches.

Of the unsold Crown lands 11,801,154 acres are held for depasturing purposes, 122,040 acres on agricultural leases, and 111,527 acres on lease for mineral or other purposes.

Agricultural Statistics.—The information is only given in respect of holdings of cultivated land of upwards of one acre in

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extent, exclusive of holdings of aboriginal natives and gardens attached to residences. The returns of the collection made in March and April 1881, give a total of 24,147 such holdings, against 23,129 in 1880. Of the holdings in 1881, 15,926 were entirely freehold, 5,620 were entirely rented, and 2,601 were partly freehold and partly rented.

The extent of land under the principal grain crops, viz., wheat, oats, and barley, amounted to 586,857 acres, against 657,890 acres in 1880, a decrease of 71,033 acres, or at the rate of 10·8 per cent.

The extent of land under green and other crops in March 1881 amounted to 330,914 acres, against 255,874 acres in 1880. Of this extent of land in other crops in 1881, 235,188 acres were under turnips or rape.

There were 3,556,949 acres in artificial grasses. Of these, 1,568,570 acres had been broken up previously to having been sown, and 1,988,379 acres had been surface-sown without having been broken up.

The total extent of land under all kinds of crops, including sown grasses and of land broken up but not under crop, in 1881, amounted to 4,768,192 acres. These numbers do not include any Maori cultivations.

The extent of land under wheat in the early part of 1881 was 324,949 acres against 270,198 acres in 1880. The estimated aggregate produce of the wheat crop in 1881 was 8,147,797 bushels, or an average of 25 bushels to the acre, against an estimated average of 28 bushels in 1880. In Otago the estimated average was 29¾ bushels to the acre; in Canterbury, 23¾ bushels; in Auckland, 25½ bushels; in Taranaki, 22¾ bushels; in Hawke's Bay, 21½ bushels; in Wellington, 20¾ bushels; in Marlborough, 21¼ bushels; and in Nelson, 18¼ bushels.

The extent of land under oats amounted to 215,030 acres, against 330, 208 acres in 1880. The produce in 1881 was estimated at 6,891,961 bushels, being an average of 32 bushels to the acre, against an estimated produce in 1880 of 12,062,607 bushels, or 36½ bushels to the acre.

The land in barley amounted to 46,878 acres, being a decrease of 10,606 acres, as compared with 1880. The estimated produce in 1881 was 1,221,276 bushels, or an average of 26 bushels to the acre, against an estimated produce in 1880 of 1,751,432 bushels, or an average of 30¼ bushels to the acre.

The area under potatoes in 1881 amounted to 22,553 acres, against 21,260 in 1880. The produce was estimated at 106,025 tons, equivalent to 4¾ tons per acre.

PART V.—LAW, CRIME, AND EDUCATION.

Civil Cases.—There were 1,681 writs of summons tested in the Supreme Court during the year 1880, as against 2,520 in 1879; 75 of the cases only were tried before juries. The total amount for which judgments were recorded was 133,227*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* The

total number of civil cases disposed of in the various district courts amounted to 566; of these, 27 were tried before juries and 342 before the judges only. The aggregate amount sued for was 63,173*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*; and judgments were recorded for 21,062*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*

There were 33,393 civil cases in the various resident magistrates' courts; the amounts sued for were in the aggregate 351,033*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*, and judgments were given for an aggregate amount of 190,390*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*

Bankruptcy.—During the year 777 declarations of insolvency were filed in the Supreme Court, and 22 adjudications of bankruptcy were made on petitions by creditors; 667 declarations of insolvency were filed in the district courts, and 10 adjudications were made on petitions by creditors; the total number of bankruptcies having thus amounted to 1,476, against 1,818 in 1879. The aggregate assets, as shown by the lists and statements filed, amounted to 1,198,270*l.*, and the aggregate liabilities to 1,282,033*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*

Criminal Cases.—20,750 charges for various offences were brought against persons, other than Maoris, before the magistrates' courts in 1880. The summary convictions, consequent on these charges, amounted to 14,778, and in 520 cases the persons were committed for trial at the superior courts. In 1879 the summary convictions amounted to 15,821, and the commitments for trial to 532. As 72 Maoris were committed for trial in 1880, the total of the committals amounted to 592.

There were indictments and informations against 463 persons, other than Maoris, in the supreme and district courts during 1880.

The number of these persons convicted was 295; 125 were acquitted, and the prosecution of 43 persons was not proceeded with.

Of the 443 indictments tried in the Supreme Court, 87 (81 against males and 6 against females) were for offences against the person, and 271 (viz., 262 against males and 9 against females) were for offences against property. The indictments for miscellaneous offences amounted to 85. The total convictions to 296. These convictions, however, represented only 275 persons convicted, including 16 Maoris, as in some instances the same person was tried on more than one indictment.

Twenty-six cases of offences against the person, of which 4 were charges against females, and 24 cases of offences against property, of which 5 were charges against females, were tried in the various district courts in the Colony; 12 charges of other offences were heard, of which one case was against 59 Maoris, who were convicted under the West Coast Settlement Act. The total convictions in these courts amounted to 34, representing a total of 95 persons convicted.

The summary convictions in the resident magistrates' courts numbered 15,025, viz., 13,321 of males, and 1,704 of females, a decrease of 1,001 in the convictions of males and of 62 in the convictions of females on the number for 1879. 915 males and 76

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females were convicted of offences against the person, and 1,072 males and 129 females were convicted for offences against property; 4,953 males and 754 females were convicted for drunkenness.

There were 65 more convictions of males and 71 fewer convictions of females for drunkenness than in 1879.

The above summary of convictions includes the 247 convictions of Maoris, of whom 30 were convicted for offences against the person, and 52 for offences against property. 80 Maoris were convicted for drunkenness.

Sentences of Criminals.—103 prisoners were sentenced in the superior courts to terms of imprisonment under 1 year. Of these, 93 were males and 10 were females. 71 males and 1 female were sentenced to terms of 1 and under 2 years; 49 males and 1 female to terms of 2 and under 3 years; 36 males and 2 females to terms of 3 and under 5 years; 6 males to terms of 5 and under 7 years; 13 males to terms of 7 to 10 years; 7 males to terms of 10 to 15 years; 2 males and 1 female to terms of 15 years or upwards; 3 males were sentenced to death.

Gaols.—The number of prisoners in confinement in the various gaols during the year 1880 (not including those imprisoned for debt or lunacy) amounted to 6,022; of these, 5,246 were received during the year, and 776 were in gaol at the commencement of the year. Of the above 5,246 prisoners received during the year 656 were Maoris. Exclusive of the Maori prisoners, and those in confinement for debt or lunacy, the number of persons in confinement amounted to 0·97 per cent. of the mean population, against 1·24 per cent. in 1879, and 1·03 per cent. in 1878. 26 children under 10 years of age were received in gaol during the year, 5 charged with felony, and 21 with minor offences. 119 prisoners were between 10 and 15 years of age, against 107 in 1879. Of these 119, 67 were committed for felony. 288 prisoners received were from 15 to 20 years of age, of whom 87 were committed for felony.

Of the prisoners 1,190 males and 532 females had been committed before.

The numbers of prisoners who had been previously convicted in each of the last four years are herewith given:—

	Once.		Twice.		Three or more Times.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1877 -	434	51	223	45	499	425
1878 -	426	58	201	52	450	454
1879 -	430	69	236	50	663	477
1880 -	339	67	195	40	656	425

Education of Prisoners.—Of the prisoners received during the year, 679 males and 207 females were unable to read; 284 males and 104 females were able to read only; 3,593 males and 662 females were able to read and write; and 52 males and 1 female had received a superior education.

Religion of Prisoners.—The total number of prisoners received during the year (exclusive of those received for debt or lunacy) amounted to 5,246. Of these, 4,310 belonged to four denominations. They were as follow:—

Denomination of Prisoners.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per 100 of Total Prisoners.	Proportion of Persons of Denomination per 100 of Total Population. at Census of 1878.
Church of England - -	1,979	37·72	42·55
Roman Catholics - -	1,606	30·61	14·21
Presbyterians - - -	596	11·36	22·95
Wesleyans - - -	129	2·45	9·14

Inquests on Deaths.—587 inquests were held on deaths during 1880, viz., 466 on the bodies of males and 121 on the bodies of females. In 306 cases the deaths were attributed to accident, of which 130 were by drowning (in 1879 the inquests on deaths by drowning were 123, and in 1878, 125); in 203 cases the deaths were attributed to diseases and natural causes; 5 deaths were homicidal; 11 directly attributed to intemperance; and 37 deaths were attributed to suicide.

Inquests on Fire.—The number of fire-inquests held during the year 1880 amounted to 65, against 96 in 1879. In 17 cases verdicts of incendiarism were returned.

Public Schools.—The number of primary schools in 1880 supported entirely by the Government was 836, having a total of 1,971 teachers. 82,401 children attended these schools during the last quarter of the year, of whom 42,734 were males and 39,667 were females.

Ages of the Pupils.—Of the above 82,401 children, 2,621 were under 5 years of age, and 17,815 from 5 to 7 years. So large a proportion (nearly one-fourth) under 7 years of age indicates that, in respect of these younger children, the schools are rather made use of by parents to relieve them from the trouble of supervision than for purely educational purposes. 60,557 children were between the ages of 7 and 15, and 1,408 over 15 years.

Secondary or Superior Aided Schools.—There were 14 schools of this class, 7 for boys and 4 for girls, and 3 for boys and girls, that either received aid from the Government grants, or that possessed endowments granted either by the Government or out of the public estate. The number of instructors amounted to 71. The total number of pupils for the last quarter of the year amounted to 1,631, viz., 1,039 males and 592 females.

Public Schools, Income and Expenditure.—The total income in 1880 of the various education boards amounted to 373,264*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, of which the grants by the general Government amounted to 345,992*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, and the receipts on account of education reserves to 19,749*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* The total expenditure amounted to 383,569*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, of which 10,037*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* were for the expenses

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of the boards, 8,273*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* for the inspection and examination of teachers, 247,121*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* for the maintenance of the schools, and 117,410*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* for school buildings.

Private Schools.—The number of private schools in the Colony in December 1880 from which returns have been received amounted to 278, against 257 in 1879, an apparent increase of 21; of these, 40 were for boys, 55 for girls, and 183 were mixed schools. The number of teachers at these schools was 630, the number of pupils 11,238, of whom 4,528 were males and 6,710 were females. As the number of pupils returned in 1879 was 10,234, there was thus an increase in the year of 1,004 pupils at private schools.

Industrial and Reformatory Schools and Orphanages.—There were 10 of these schools in 1880, viz., 6 orphanages and 4 industrial and reformatory schools. The Thames Orphanage having been appointed an industrial school for the purpose of receiving neglected and criminal children, there may be said to be 5 industrial schools. The number of children in these several schools in the last quarter of 1880 amounted to 892, viz., 535 males and 357 females. As the children at these schools undergo a course of instruction, they may be added to the number of children receiving instruction in the Colony.

Native Village Schools.—The number of schools established by the Government for the education of the native race amounted during 1880 to 59. The number of native pupils on the rolls on the 31st December 1880 was 1,623—viz., 919 males and 704 females. Ten private schools, and four public primary schools, were subsidized for the maintenance of native children.

Part VI.—Miscellaneous.

Counties.

Revenue.—The total revenue of the 51 counties within which the administrative portion of the Counties Act was in operation, for the year ended the 31st March 1881 amounted to 321,626*l.* of which 232,778*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* consisted of grants from the public revenue.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure by these 51 counties amounted to 424,468*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, of which 306,516*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* was expended on public works, 13,574*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* on charitable disbursements, 42,144*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* on management, 32,101*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* on grants to road boards, and 30,130*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* on other expenditure.

Municipal Boroughs.

Numbers and Population.—There were 65 boroughs in March 1881, containing an aggregate population of 194,981.

Annual Value of Rateable Property.—The estimated net annual value of the rateable properties, in terms of "The Rating Act, 1876," (which provides for a reduction from the renting value of 20 per cent. on houses and buildings, and 10 per cent. on land,)

amounted to 1,835,122*l.* 16*s.* The approximate real annual value may be about 2,158,968*l.*, the rating value being assumed to be, on an average, 15 per cent. less than the full renting value.

Revenue.—The total aggregate revenue of these boroughs amounted to 354,005*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*; of this the grants from Government amounted to 22,074*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, and the receipts from local taxation by rates to 137,615*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

Expenditure. — The total expenditure amounted to 681,578*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, of which the sum of 434,627*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* was spent on public works, 40,197*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* on salaries and office expenses, and 206,753*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* in other ways.

Outstanding Loans.—The outstanding loans of the various boroughs amounted to 1,844,007*l.* at rates of interest varying from 5 to 8 per cent.

Harbour Boards.

Revenue.—There were 23 constituted harbour boards on the 31st December 1880. Their aggregate revenue for the year 1880 amounted to 179,557*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, of which the grants from Government amounted to 41,982*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, and the receipts from wharfage dues, fees, tolls, &c, to 123,524*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

Expenditure. — The total expenditure amounted to 407,936*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, of which the expenditure on public works amounted to 274,196*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, and that on salaries and office expenses to 11,413*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*

Outstanding Loans.—The outstanding loans of these several harbour boards amounted in the aggregate to 1,195,800*l.*, at rates of interest varying from 5½ to 7 per cent.

Road Districts.

Revenue.—The aggregate revenue of the various road districts in the Colony amounted to 196,901*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, of which the grants from the Government or counties amounted to 93,866*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, and the receipts from rates to 72,795*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

Expenditure.—The total expenditure of these districts amounted to 338,733*l.* 18*s.*, of which the expenditure on public works amounted to 299,411*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, and the expenditure on salaries and management to 31,168*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*

Annual Value of Rateable Properties.—The estimated net annual value of the rateable property in the road districts, amounted to 2,616,852*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* If allowance be made for a reduction of 10 per cent. in terms of "The Rating Act, 1876," the actual annual value may be taken at 2,907,613.

River Boards.

There were 13 River Protective Boards in 1880. Returns were received from 11. The total revenue of these 11 amounted to 11,138*l.* 14*s.*, of which the sum of 3,820*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* was received from the Government, and the sum of 5,949*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* from rates. The expenditure amounted to 19,035*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, of which the expenditure on public works amounted to 8,587*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, and the expenses of salaries and management to 1,064*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*

Constabulary, Volunteers, Fire Brigades.

Armed Constabulary.—The total strength of the armed constabulary on the 31st December 1880 amounted to 1,236 men of all ranks. As all the police in the Colony are enrolled in the armed constabulary force, the above number includes those engaged on purely police duties. The number so engaged amounted to 446, viz., 11 commissioned officers, 75 non-commissioned officers, and 360 rank and file. The reserve force consisted of 22 commissioned officers, 80 non-commissioned officers, and 688 rank and file. The reserve force was stationed at 24 different posts.

Volunteers.—The various branches of the volunteer force gave a total strength of 10,595 officers and men belonging to 147 different corps, a decrease on the number in 1879 of 676 volunteers and 12 corps. The totals of each branch of the force were as follow:—

——	Corps.	Strength.
Cavalry - - -	9	833
Artillery - -	13	1,129
Engineers - -	4	356
Rifles - - -	75	4,861
Naval - - -	7	859
Cadets - - -	39	2,557

Fire Brigades.—In 1880 there were 35 fire brigades in the Colony, having a total strength of 141 officers and 736 men.

Representation.

Electors.—The number of persons on the electoral rolls of the Colony for the year commencing on the 1st September 1880 was 83,851. Of these, the number of Maoris who were registered as electors amounted to 830.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. R. E. BROWN,
Registrar-General.

Statistical Summary of the Colony of New Zealand from 1878 to 1880 inclusive.

Year.	Population (exclusive of Maoris).			Able to Read and Write.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration (excess over Emigration).	Inhabited Houses.	Crown Lands.			Land (including Sown Grasses) under Cultivation.	Live Stock.			
	Males.	Females.	Totals.							Waste Lands sold in each Year.	Cash realised.	Free Grants.		Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
										Acres.	£	Acres.	Acres.				
1878	240,627	191,892	432,519	282,975	17,770	4,645	3,377	10,502	79,657	692,554	1,307,267	54,861	3,523,277	137,768	578,430	13,069,338	207,337
1879	257,894	205,835	463,729*	—	18,070	5,583	3,352	18,723	—	79,575	146,733	37,953	3,982,866	—	—	—	—
1800	263,364	216,500	484,864	—	19,341	5,437	3,181	7,231	—	131,798	184,488	41,972	4,506,889	—	—	—	—

continued.

Year.	Postal.					Shipping.						Exports (the Produce of New Zealand).					
	Letters (Received and Despatched).	Newspapers (Received and Despatched).	Postal Revenue.	No. of Money Orders Issued.	Amount of Money Orders Issued.	Inwards.		Outwards.		Registered Vessels belonging to the Colony.		Gold.		Wool.		Flax (Phormium).	
						No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	No.	No.	£		£							Ozs.	£	lbs.	£	Tons.	£
1878	15,524,761	9,410,366	158,998	101,017	368,255	926	456,490	886	428,493	541	46,965	310,486	1,240,079	59,270,256	3,292,807	622	10,666
1879	20,957,818	10,057,944	203,886	117,999	428,673	894	473,940	908	475,752	563	64,457	284,100	1,134,641	62,220,810	3,126,439	445	7,874
1880	22,824,468	10,272,917	213,820	135,648	465,405	730	395,675	786	424,041	559	66,316	303,215	1,220,263	66,860,150	3,169,300	894	15,617

* The population of the Colony (other than Maoris) according to the Census of the 3rd April 1881, was 489,933 persons; the Maori population was 44,099.

Statistical Summary of the Colony of New Zealand from 1878 to 1880 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Exports (the Produce of New Zealand).				Imports.	Revenue.			Electric Telegraph.			Miles of Railway.		Savings Banks.*		Friendly Societies.†		Convictions in Superior Courts after Commitment.
	Gum (Kauri).		Wheat, Provisions, Tallow, Timber, &c.	Total Value.	Total Value.	Ordinary.	Territorial.	Total for Year.	Miles of Line.	Number of Messages.	Cash and Cash Values.	Open for Traffic.	Under Construction.	Number of Depositors.	Balance to Credit on 31st Dec.	Number of Lodges, &c.	Average No. of Members.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.															
	Tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			£				£			
1878	3,445	132,975	1,103,981	5,780,508	8,755,663	2,658,708	1,509,181	4,167,889	3,434	1,260,324	92,433	1,089	142	39,926	1,043,204	88	8,828	292
1879	3,228	147,535	1,146,966	5,563,455	8,374,585	2,766,834	318,661	3,085,495	3,512	1,448,943	112,351	1,171	284	42,679	990,337	110	9,759	296
1880	4,725	242,817	1,454,303	6,102,400	6,162,011	2,895,128	389,914	3,285,042	3,758	1,304,712	100,023	1,288	192	47,462	1,148,992	47	10,033	330

* Post Office Savings Banks were first opened in 1867. † These figures do not give all the Friendly Societies in the Colony, but only such as furnished returns in each year.

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No. 4.

Governor Sir A. MUSGRAVE, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, King's House, September 19, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the report on the annual Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1879–80.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1879–80.

Legislation.

In the Session of the Legislative Council in the earlier part of 1880 within the official year, 12 laws were passed, of which the following may be noticed, though none are important in character:—

Law 2 of 1880.—"The Shipwrecked Colonial Seamen Law, 1880"

The object of this Law was to extend to seamen who might become distressed in the United Kingdom by shipwreck, and who are natives of this Colony, the relief and repatriation which was afforded under Law 21 of 1875 to seamen of vessels belonging to this Island who are shipwrecked in foreign parts. The manner in which such relief is to be granted and the persons who are entitled to such relief are definitely laid down in the Law. The Law was subsequently by Law 17 of 1881 re-enacted and amended in some particulars, the principal of which was that the relief should not be limited to those seamen of a Colonial ship who were natives of the Colony.

Law 5 of 1880.—"The General Markets Law Amendment Law, 1880."

The Law of 1874 which is now amended provided machinery by which the Municipal Boards might establish market places in such parts of their parishes as they might think desirable, but there was no provision by which people were prevented from selling in any place they may think fit in the neighbourhood of the markets. Sanitary considerations as well as those having regard to Municipal order and regulation, render fixed market places necessary. It is customary in many places for the people to sit on the road and in public places, where they cause inconvenience to the general public

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and become a nuisance. In order to remedy this state of things it is necessary not only to erect a market which hucksters and higglers might prefer to avoid, but to render sales illegal elsewhere within a certain radius. The object of this Law therefore is to give power, when one of these market places has been established, to compel the people to sell there and nowhere else within certain limits to be fixed by the Governor in Council in each case. Another consideration was the justice of securing, by the fees paid, the reimbursement to Municipal Authorities of the expense at which they have been put in providing suitable and convenient buildings. The law is not put into operation in or about any town without due notice and warning that the past practice of selling on the roadside must be discontinued.

Law 7 of 1880.—"A Law to further amend the Districts Courts "Law, 1874, as to the salaries of Judges and Clerks."

This Law was passed in consequence of the alteration in the judicial establishment under which a second Puisne Judge has been appointed in the Supreme Court and the concomitant rearrangement of the district courts on the coming into operation of the Judicature Law, 1879, whereby the districts have been reduced in number and certain of them have been increased in area. This Law gave the Governor the power to increase the maximum salaries of the District Court Judges and Clerks slightly beyond the rates authorised by Law 22 of 1874. The Law took effect from the 1st January 1880. It is provided that upon any rearrangement of districts involving an increase in the number of Judges, the former restrictions as to salaries shall again come into operation, and that no Judge or Clerk of a district court shall be entitled to any claim in respect of the remission to his former salary.

Law 8 of 1880.—"The Railway Extension Loan Law 1880."

This Law was passed to empower the Government to raise a loan for the purpose of extending the Jamaica Railway, which had recently been purchased by the public. The amount of loan authorised was 350,000*l.*, at a rate of interest not exceeding 5 per cent., to be applied in the purchase of land, materials, and in the construction of the railway. The loan is guaranteed on the general revenues and assets of the Government of Jamaica.

The Law authorises two extensions, the first from the present terminus at Old Harbour, in the parish of St. Catherine, to Porus, in the parish of Manchester, and the second from Angels Station, the end of a short branch from Spanish Town, in St. Catherine, to Ewarton, in the same parish.

The usual powers are inserted in the Law for the issue of debentures, payment of interest, and creation of sinking funds for redemption of debentures. Power is also given for the construction of the railway by the Director of Roads or by contract, and all property is vested in the Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, The law has since been amended in the increase of the amount of loan to 400,000*l.* and in some minor details.

Law 10 of 1880.—"A Law to extend to the Turks and Caicos "Islands the Law for the demonetization of the silver dollar."

The extension of these provisions of Jamaica Law to the Settlement, which has by Imperial Statute formed part of this Colony for the past seven years, was made expedient by the introduction and circulation there at a reduced value of a considerable quantity of the money in question, as well as by the propriety of assimilating the currency of the Dependency to that of Jamaica, with which it is now desired to bring it into closer communication.

Law 11 of 1880.—"A Law to amend the Marriage Law 15 of 1879."

This Law amends the original Marriage Law, 15 of 1879, in certain respects which had been suggested by the Secretary of State, but which did not alter the main principles of the earlier Law.

The opportunity was taken to make other amendments suggested by several ministers of religion who had been appointed Marriage Officers under the Law, by removing restrictions from the solemisation of marriages by Marriage Officers in other than their own parishes; by giving greater facilities for publication of banns by persons not belonging to, nor considered to be attached to any congregation; by providing for publication of banns in the case of persons professing the Jewish religion; by extending the hours for marriages solemnised by Marriage officers; and by reducing the stamp duty on the Governor's license from 10*l.* to 5*l.*

Finance.

On account of general revenue and expenditure in 1879–80, exclusively of appropriated revenue and expenditure, the receipts were 491,906*l.*, and the payments, including 9,887*l.* for redemption of debt, and 18,019*l.* invested in sinking funds for the ultimate redemption of debt, amounted to 503,012*l.*, the excess of expenditure over revenue being met out of the surplus of 15,866 brought forward from the preceding year, and leaving a credit balance of 4,760*l.* towards the ways and means of the current financial year.

The appropriated revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, pauper relief, sanitary services, and other similar local purposes, and are administered by the several parochial boards, produced in 1879–80 79,384*l.*, which is 516*l.* more than the receipts of last year. The expenditure on the other hand amounted to 83,178*l.*, the excess of expenditure over revenue being met from the balances of previous years which were at credit of the respective funds.

The revenue appropriated to immigration services amounted to 27,702*l.*, while the expenditure was 30,578*l.*; the difference being met from the balance in hand.

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The usual comparative table of the whole of the Treasury receipts in the financial year under report with those of the previous year is as follows :—

——	1879–80.	1878–79.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
General Revenue.				
Import duties - - -	258,514	232,285	26,229	—
Export duties - - -	6,283	7,040	—	757
Light dues - - -	2,425	2,588	—	163
Harbour-master's fees - -	423	592	—	169
Rum duties - - -	92,770	91,088	1,682	—
Licenses - - - -	17,861	17,391	470	—
Stamps - - - -	13,873	14,118	—	245
Postal revenues - - -	14,360	14,089	271	—
Telegraph revenues - -	1,010	—	1,010	—
Court fees - - -	7,771	7,782	—	11
Fines and forfeitures - -	2,590	2,765	—	175
Interest on securities for sinking funds - - - -	4,708	4,319	389	—
Interest other than as above -	3,517	3,258	259	—
Jamaica Railway revenue - -	27,628	11,086	16,542	—
Reimbursements for expenditure -	21,702	17,000	4,702	—
Miscellaneous - - -	16,471	10,498	5,973	—
	—	—	57,527	1,520
	491,906	435,899	56,007	—
Revenue specially appropriated.				
Parochial road revenues -	36,493	36,368	125	—
Kingston street tax - -	1,240	1,075	165	—
Parochial municipal revenues -	6,567	6,300	267	—
Poor rates - - - -	26,934	26,916	18	—
Sanitary rates -	2,699	2,020	679	—
Fire rates - - - -	1,086	738	348	—
Gas rates - - - -	2,614	5,529	—	2,915
Miscellaneous - - -	1,751	22	1,729	—
	—	—	3,331	2,915
	79,384	78,968	416	—

	1879-80.	1878-79.	Increase.	Decrease.
Immigration Revenue.	£	£	£	£
Export duties - - -	13,404	12,591	813	—
Capitation tax, &c. - -	3,442	8,600	—	5,158
Interest (general) - -	1,411	1,412	—	1
Proceeds of planters' notes -	9,279	9,121	158	—
Miscellaneous - - -	166	412	—	246
	—	—	971	5,405
	27,702	32,136	—	4,434
Total immigration revenues -	27,702	32,136	—	4,434
Total revenue specially appropriated - - -	79,384	78,868	516	—
Total general revenue -	491,906	435,899	56,007	—
	—	—	56,523	4,434
	598,992	546,903	52,089	—
Receipts on Debt Account.				
Law 12 of 1879 - - -	15,473	99,526	—	—
Law 1 of 1879 - - -	14,425	—	—	—
Excess of deposits over withdrawals	—	36,500	—	36,500
	—	—	—	—
	628,890	682,929	—	54,039

The large increase under import duties was to the extent of 8,745*l.*, on food stuffs, the augmentation in the importation of which is not very plainly accounted for as regards this year. To some extent it probably was caused by the substitution in cultivation of fruit crops for exportation instead of food crops for home consumption. Partly it was rendered necessary by the drought which had begun in the first half of this official year and which still further diminished the supply of home grown 'bread kind,' as ground provisions are expressively called; and in a small degree in the last month of the period it may have arisen from the destruction caused by the cyclone of 18th August 1880. But the Collector-General in his annual report remarked that this "occurring so late in the financial year did not materially affect "the collection proper to that year." The increase under railway receipts is due to the receipts for the whole year now appearing, and to the figures of last year representing the yield for only the six months during which it was in possession of the Government. The increase under miscellaneous is only apparent, a large sum in

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deposit at credit of the "recovered lands" having been transferred and brought to account as an item of revenue during the year.

The appropriated revenues show a small increase under each item except the gas rates, the receipts under this head in the preceding year having been unduly swollen by the transfer of a considerable amount belonging to 1877–78.

The immigration revenues show a considerable decrease, but this is attributable to the operation of the new immigration scheme under which the capitation dues on immigrants introduced prior to 1st October 1878 are gradually ceasing to be paid on the expiration of their indentures. It is satisfactory to notice that the export duties show a small increase over the preceding year.

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with the year immediately preceding:—

	1879–80.	1878–79.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Interest on debt	49,008	43,103	5,905	
Pensions	12,660	12,029	631	—
Administrative departments	32,238	31,854	384	—
Revenue departments	31,470	31,186	284	—
Postal service	16,604	16,810	—	146
Telegraph service	1,863	606	1,257	—
Judicial	37,461	36,055	1,406	—
Ecclesiastical	9,827	10,235	—	408
Medical	49,297	46,618	2,679	—
Constabulary	53,353	49,786	3,567	—
Penitentiary and prisons	25,768	24,716	1,052	—
Reformatories	4,249	4,377	—	128
Education	25,600	23,345	2,255	—
Harbour-master	1,018	883	135	—
Colonial allowance to troops	4,111	4,858	—	747
Pilotage and harbour boards	97	304	—	207
Miscellaneous	8,250	11,179	—	2,929
Steam communication with America	3,926	4,253	—	327
Stationery for public departments	9	3,379	—	3,370
Public plantations and gardens	5,567	4,208	1,359	—
Public Library and Museum	746	587	159	—
Public works	67,438	52,718	14,720	—
Lighthouses	1,290	1,300	—	10
Parochial expenditure	2,213	2,266	—	53
Subsidy to West India and Panama Telegraph Company	2,000	1,833	167	—
Maintenance of Jamaica Railway	17,393	6,651	10,742	—
Registrar General's Department	3,388	2,496	892	—
Island Record Office	963	367	596	—
Island Secretary's Office	—	834	—	834
Government Printing Department	7,739	309	7,430	—
	—	—	55,474	9,013
	475,606	429,145	46,461	—

	1879–80.	1878–79.	Increase.	Decrease.
Expenditure from appropriated Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Parochial roads - - -	40,300	34,222	6,108	—
Kingston streets - - -	306	213	93	—
Parochial municipal objects -	7,312	3,138	4,174	—
Relief of the poor - - -	28,646	27,739	907	—
Sanitary appropriation - -	2,947	2,330	617	—
Fire appropriation - - -	1,494	747	747	—
Gas appropriation, Kingston -	2,142	5,404	—	3,262
	—	—	12,646	3,262
	83,177	73,793	9,384	—
Total expenditure from appropriated revenue - - -	83,177	73,793	9,384	—
Total immigration expenditure -	30,578	21,157	9,421	—
Total general expenditure -	475,606	429,145	46,461	—
Expenditure out of Loans raised for the purpose.				
Jamaica railway - - -	90,325	33,113	57,212	—
Telegraphs - - -	7,893	4,154	3,739	—
	687,579	561,362	126,217	—
Disbursements other than Expenditure.				
Sinking funds - - -	18,019	10,706	7,313	—
Redemption of debt - -	10,487	12,437	—	1,950
Excess of withdrawals over deposits	50,430	—	50,430	—
Grand total disbursements -	766,515	584,505	182,010	—

Of the increases under general expenditure that of 5,905*l.* under interest is attributable to an increase in the debenture debt by the raising of the railway loan, and in the growing amount of the Government Savings Bank deposits; that of 1,257*l.* under telegraphs is due to the extension of the line which had not been completed to a greater extent than one half in the previous year; that of judicial 1,406*l.* to increments and the appointment of a third Puisne Judge; medical 2,679*l.* to the gradual extension and increase of hospital accommodation in the Island; constabulary 3,567*l.* arms and accoutrements purchased in the year before but not paid for until 1879–80; education 2,255*l.* outstanding building and annual grants for the year before but paid in 1879–80; public works 14,720*l.* on account of the damages to roads by the floods of 1879 and for a large amount of stores purchased which when issued are charged against the works concerned and appear as revenue under reimbursements in aid; Jamaica railway 10,742*l.*, the expenditure for the whole year now appears as against six months only of 1878–79; Government Printing Department 7,430*l.* is due to the establishment having been created towards the end of the earlier year of comparison.

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Under expenditure from appropriated revenues there appear large increases under parochial roads 6,108*l.* to meet excessive expenditure in consequence of the floods of October 1879; of 4,174*l.* under parochial municipal objects, which include the portions of the cost of new markets erected during the year in the parishes of St. Catherine and St. James, while that in the other cases may be attributed to ordinary fluctuation. The decrease under gas appropriation being due to the exceptional transfer in the year before referred to in the remarks under revenue.

Pensions.

During the year 15 pensions, amounting in all to 1,076*l.*, were granted on the principles of the Imperial Superannuation Acts and Treasury Rules, in consequence of the retirement from office on the unavoidable grounds of either old age or ill-health permanently incapacitating the holder from the performance of his duties; the list has been on the other hand relieved by the death of seven pensioners to the extent of 770*l.*

Debt.

An instalment of 15,000*l.* of the Railway Purchase and Reconstruction Loan under Law 12 of 1879, and 14,425*l.*, being the full amount required for the construction of the circuit of Island telegraphs under Law 1 of 1879, were raised during the year. The former was obtained on public competition in Jamaica, tenders to the amount of 20,400*l.* at rates ranging from par to 99*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* being received in answer to the advertisement for 15,000*l.* at 4½ per centum interest. The debentures under Law 1 of 1879 were assigned to the Savings Bank as security for un-invested deposits borrowed under the Law to repay the advances made from the Treasury during the construction of the telegraph lines.

No further amounts were raised during the year on account of any special local services.

During the year 10,487*l.* of debt were paid off, of which 1,100*l.* for Kingston Streets Reconstruction of 1864 were from special revenues appropriated to the purpose; and 9,387*l.* for immigration were from general revenue.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue, which was 757,316*l.* at the end of 1866, stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last 10 years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1871	591,656	5	6	1876	501,413	8	5
1872	571,542	1	3	1877	485,107	11	5
1873	554,492	18	11	1878	641,644	10	9
1874	539,108	8	2	1879	718,608	11	11
1875	548,024	3	7	1880	721,481	6	8

The large increases in 1878 and in 1879–80 were an account of the transfer of immigration debt and of the acquisition of the railway respectively, with these exceptions it will be shown that the debt has steadily diminished, and the railway net revenue more than pays interest and sinking fund on the loan raised for purchase.

In addition to the debt shown in the above statement there are the following loans raised for special objects, and although guaranteed by the general revenue secured primarily on the special revenues of the several undertakings:—

	£
Rio Cobre Canal - - - -	123,900
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks - -	98,200
Kingston markets - - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - - - -	25,000
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000

In none of these cases has it yet been found practicable to make from the special revenues any provision for the repayment of the capital, although the Kingston and Liguanea waterworks undertaking will probably be in a position to commence redemption next year; while in regard to the Rio Cobre Irrigation Canal Loan, the general revenue was called upon, under its guarantee, to pay 5,808*l.*, during the year as the deficiency of receipts against interest on loan and working expenses.

Legislative Council.

There were 14 meetings in a session opened on the 27th January 1880, and prorogued on the 25th March 1880.

During the year one vacancy occurred in the number of unofficial members, caused by the death of the Hon. Robert Hamilton, M.D., and Mr. Michael Solomon was appointed in his room.

The Attorney-General Mr. Henry Hicks Hocking arrived in March 1880 to take up the duties of his office, and ex officio took his seat as an official member of the Council.

Civil Establishment.

During my absence on leave from the 8th of August 1879 to 3rd of June 1880 the government of the Colony was administered by the Lieutenant-Governor Edward Newton, C.M.G.

Mr. Henry Hicks Hocking, having been appointed Attorney-General in succession to Mr. Edward L. O'Malley, arrived in March 1880 and assumed his duties.

Major-General Mann, R.E., Director of Roads and Surveyor-General obtained leave of absence in March 1880, to proceed to England, and Major C. F. O'N. Ferguson, Deputy Director of Roads, was appointed to act in his stead, Mr. James Richmond being appointed to act as Deputy Director.

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Mr. Edmund Scott Barber arrived in November 1879, having beeu appointed District Engineer under the Public Works Department for the Kingston District in the place of the late Mr. Dawson.

Mr. Lionel Payne Gallwey was appointed in January 1880 Engineer, under the Public Works Department, for the Eastern District, in the room of Mr. J. Parry who had accepted an appointment under the Kingston Parochial Boards.

Mr. William Lee was appointed to be Administrator-General under Laws 34 of 1873 and 28 of 1879.

No death occurred among the higher public servants during the year.

Roads and Public Works.

It appears from the Director of Roads' report that the main roads, which are now 735 miles in length, are generally in excellent order, but the cost of maintenance for the year has been unusually heavy, owing to the exceptional causes of the flood of October 1879 and the cyclone of August 1880, both of which disasters fell within the same official year. The average cost per mile has been 39*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* being with one exception the highest rate for many years past.

The total expenditure on main roads, bridges, and public works during the year (excluding railways) has been as follows :—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Main Roads and Bridges -	34,014	14	2
Other public works (including telegraphs, lighthouses, &c. -	36,268	15	7
Salaries, rents, and water rates -	9,575	12	5
Making a total of -	£79,859	2	2

Among the more important public works begun or completed during the year, may be mentioned the erection of substantial iron bridges at Papine in St. Andrew's parish and at Bodles Gully near Old Harbour; the latter more especially will be of great public utility, for in former times the main road between the south side and Kingston was often virtually closed in the rainy, season, and great risk and occasional loss of life occurred to those who ventured across the dangerous gully which is now bridged. The work cost 2,300*l.* The bridge is a handsome structure having wrought iron "Warren" girders, with bevelled plate flooring and cement concrete abutments and wing walls.

A work has progressed during the year and is now nearly finished which will be of immense benefit in opening up a part of the country hitherto almost inaccessible, but which I am assured is fertile, and adapted to several kinds of cultivation, I allude to a road between Cave Valley in St. Ann's and Chapelton in

Clarendon, giving direct communication from the north to the south side in the middle of the Island. A glance at the map of Jamaica will show how much needed was such a cross line of communication, and it may be mentioned, in illustration of the advantage it confers, that a correspondent writing a few days ago in a newspaper states that, "A gentleman and his family came "over this road in a buggy from Old Harbour, and he assured me "they had a pleasant trip over. This saved them a distance of "66 miles, besides taking two days in which to complete it, "and the expense would have been twice as much. It only "took him three-quarters of a day to travel from Old Harbour "to Abourkir."

The Bog Walk Road, regarding parts of which complaints had been made on account of the periodical flooding, caused it was said by the irrigation works, has, in the portions alluded to above the flat bridge, now been raised above the level of all minor floods, the work was begun in the last financial year and is now finished.

The road between Halfway Tree, a rising village in St Andrew's, and Kingston, the chief city of the Island, has been raised and widened considerably. This has been rendered almost indispensable after the laying of the tramway line between the two places, which runs upon the main road, but it was always desirable, and in any case on account of the growing importance of Halfway Tree and its neighbourhood could hardly have been longer delayed.

These improvements are mentioned merely as specimens of the valuable but unostentatious work that goes on from year to year in rendering locomotion easy and safe between the different centres of industry. The main roads of the Colony and the bridges cannot be spoken of without commendation by an impartial traveller. It is true that the parochial roads are not in many districts in such good order as they might be; but, with a growing and scattered population finding outlets for themselves in all directions over hills and through watercourses, it is difficult for the funds at the disposal of the local parochial boards to meet all claims. That these funds are as fairly distributed, as circumstances allow there seems no reason to doubt, and they are aided, when a good case is made out, with substantial grants from the Road Reserve Fund for any work of permanent utility or of extraordinary character. Occasionally also a much frequented road which has risen in importance is taken over as a main road, as a charge on the general revenues and a relief to parochial funds.

The court houses, parochial hospitals, and other Government buildings have been kept in repair during the year.

The Lazaretto at Green Bay may now at length be said to be finished, the Hospital having since the close of the year been completed. The work of completing the buildings was greatly retarded by the storm of August 1880 which blew down part of them.

The *irrigation works* are in good order and have been so upheld during the year. It is disappointing to find that the benefits to be derived from irrigation are comparatively ignored except by a

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few. For much of the year the plains of St. Catherine have suffered severely from drought, but notwithstanding this the consumption of water has not been much greater than it was. The works produced during the year 2,240*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* against a working expenditure of 1,454*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* exclusive of the interest on the cost of construction of the undertaking.

The Surveyor-General is hopeful as to the ultimate success of these works financially, and I am myself inclined to his opinion. There can be no doubt that in a Colony where energy and enterprize are somewhat lacking it could not be fair to judge of the success of a scheme like the irrigation works by the experience even of its first decade.

Lands.

It appears that properties comprising in all 741 acres have been recovered by the Crown from squatters, under the 184th section of the District Courts Law.

Nine hundred and fifty-five acres of land have been sold during the year, and 7,296 acres leased out to various persons at a total annual rental of 561*l.*

Telegraphs.

The telegraph circuit previously begun has been completed and branches subsequently authorised have been added. The Island is now completely encircled by the wire and branch lines tap points out of the direct line, giving every part of the Island a telegraph station within a reasonable distance; the convenience it brings to all classes is greatly appreciated, and the Postmaster, under whose able and indefatigable administration the service has been established, is sanguine that the value of the messages transmitted in its second year of full operation (1881–82) will cover the working expenses, while in consideration of the great public advantage of the establishment, the general revenue may, even if no better result be subsequently obtained, be well left to bear the expense of annual wear and tear and the charge for interest on the cost of construction, which has been under 15,000*l.*

Railways.

The transactions of the year show the largest revenue the line has ever earned. Passenger traffic increased in a great degree and may be attributed in a measure to the regularity which now characterizes the running of the trains, as well as to a more convenient time table which has no doubt also had its effect.

The amount of capital invested in the line to 30th September 1880 was 115,000*l.*, viz., 90,000*l.* for purchase money and 25,000*l.* spent towards restoration. The net revenue received was 11,367*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, or nearly 10 per cent. on the invested capital.

The reconstruction of the line, which was in the middle of 1879 estimated by Mr. V. Bell to cost 56,597*l.*, was proceeded with

during the year at an expenditure of 26,681*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*; in this is included the cost of two locomotives and the repairs of the rolling stock.

The improved condition of the line is now very perceptible, not only in the greater comfort in travelling, but also in the more orderly appearance of the way and stations.

District Courts.

The business transacted in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following summary :—

—	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Criminal trials -	1,831	2,437	2,679	3,210	3,545	3,862	3,707	4,054	3,319	3,197
Small causes -	7,321	7,396	8,050	7,982	8,531	9,446	9,212	9,616	7,704	7,652
Judgment summonses - -	—	—	843	1,397	1,511	1,736	1,670	1,579	1,592	1,692
Equity cases -	13	15	13	7	5	6	8	21	20	15
Cases under Land Law - -	353	485	241	228	133	309	222	163	104	126
Bankruptcy cases -	42	5	8	6	4	13	17	5	1	8
Probate cases -	42	31	29	23	39	62	93	94	102	109
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount claimed -	35,958	39,896	41,148	50,325	52,093	56,490	60,894	63,300	51,510	47,408
Judgment obtained	18,580	15,770	19,873	25,773	26,048	27,970	30,976	32,348	28,479	34,056
Costs - - -	3,350	3,493	3,810	4,212	5,812	4,952	5,531	5,626	4,952	4,957
Court fees - -	4,424	4,432	4,600	4,721	4,994	5,597	5,436	5,491	4,757	4,484

There were 22 appeals from the decisions of these courts during the year, 17 being in civil and five in criminal cases. Judgment was reversed in eight cases, six appeals were dismissed and in eight cases the judgments of the district courts were affirmed.

SUMMARY of BUSINESS done in the DISTRICT COURTS during the FINANCIAL YEAR, 1879–80.

Month.	Criminal Trials.	Causes tried or determined under				Insolvency Cases Filed.	Probate Cases Filed.	Amount claimed.
		Small Causes Law.	Judgment Summons Law.	Equity Law.	Land Law.			
								£ s. d.
October - -	195	599	118	1	6	—	5	3,432 8 7
November -	256	599	117	1	11	—	9	3,837 6 6
December -	214	561	146	1	8	—	11	3,934 15 10
January -	276	492	108	—	14	—	10	3,189 9 11
February -	253	741	151	2	15	1	13	4,157 8 3
March - -	274	646	135	2	14	—	15	3,662 6 2
April - -	328	683	158	1	12	2	8	4,197 5 11
May - -	271	620	146	1	6	—	6	3,644 6 1
June - -	268	747	170	2	6	1	11	3,849 19 2
July - -	343	745	144	1	16	—	9	4,818 17 11
August - -	256	589	150	1	11	3	6	4,396 10 5
September -	263	630	149	2	7	1	6	4,287 15 1
Total -	3,197	7,652	1,692	15	126	8	109	47,408 9 10

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Summary of business done in the District Courts, &c.—*cont.*

Month.	Amount paid into Court before Judgment.	Amount for which Judgment obtained.	Costs.	Fines, Forfeitures, &c.	Court Fees.	Bailiff's Fees.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
October - -	49 14 5	2,084 15 6	417 2 2	30 6 3	334 17 9	157 5 10
November -	96 2 4	1,640 2 3	339 17 0	58 3 8½	342 0 8	184 6 9
December -	70 3 6	1,909 17 10	387 19 5	33 5 1½	416 14 9	217 16 7½
January -	72 1 2	1,518 8 3	343 15 6	41 7 0	311 18 9	162 8 4
February -	156 3 11	1,980 17 3	414 2 3	33 3 0	367 0 6	194 19 0
March - -	91 18 7	1,872 11 6	416 9 4	38 0 6	406 14 6	150 5 1½
April - -	266 6 9	1,979 8 2	416 1 2	32 16 6	425 13 6	171 16 6
May - -	87 6 9	1,938 9 4	429 15 4	35 18 1	356 13 3	141 8 9
June - -	107 8 7	2,250 17 5	416 6 4	36 1 0	384 19 0	158 19 10
July - -	138 17 0	2,335 18 10	492 8 9	77 18 3	413 2 0	79 1 7
August - -	81 13 0	2,658 3 8	432 4 9	52 1 1	336 10 6	139 19 3
September -	94 14 1	2,539 18 2¼	450 9 10	34 13 9	387 10 6	168 16 6
Total -	1,312 10 1	3,405 6 2¼	4,956 11 10	503 14 3	4,483 15 8	1,907 14 1

Public Gardens and Plantations.

The report presented by Mr. Morris, the Director of the Public Gardens and Plantations, being a record of his first year's administration of the department, is highly interesting and instructive to persons in the Colony devoted to agricultural and horticultural pursuits, as well as to those strangers desirous of obtaining information as to the Colony's agricultural resources.

As a proof if one were needed of the extreme usefulness of a botanical department worked as this is in its character merely as a nursery, it may be pointed out that nearly 100,000 plants of economic value were distributed in the year. Of these, Trinidad cocoa and sweet oranges take the lead, and Liberian coffee plants have been supplied largely in proportion to the supply of seedlings available. There is every indication, from the number of cinchona plants also distributed, 30,000 seedlings having been supplied, that steps are being taken to extend the cultivation of this valuable tree. The great commercial success which is now appearing to attend the Government plantations has without doubt led to this; if a practical illustration were wanting of the value of experiments of this nature undertaken at public expense, no better could be found than the interest excited within the Colony, and even abroad, in the present condition of these plantations and the prices realised from the bark produced there.

The Director draws attention to the unfavourable character of the year for planting operations, owing to the severe drought experienced generally throughout the Island retarding in a great measure agricultural operations, giving a check to important industries, and rendering necessary a larger expenditure in the department while necessarily to some extent limiting its operations.

The cyclone of the 16th August 1880 did considerable damage to the eastern side of the Island and the principal botanical

establishments there situated, the Castleton Gardens and the cinchona plantations suffer, to some extent, more especially the latter place where a number of the trees were blown down, and the buildings much damaged. The bark from the injured trees was, however, safely harvested, and obtained equally good prices as those of previous consignments of the trees cut down, realising a gross return of 2,796*l.*

Cinchona Plantation.—Four consignments of cinchona bark from the plantation were made during the year, containing an aggregate of 27,299 lbs., the gross return on this quantity being 5,380*l.*, leaving, after deducting shipping charges, &c. in England, a net return of 5,146*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* This bark was the produce of 8,246 trees of all kinds from 8 to 10 and 12 years old, giving an average return of 3¼ lbs. of dry bark per tree and an average net value of 12*s.* 5½*d.* per tree. Of the 8,246 trees 210 were of the hybrid variety which yielded an average of 4½ lbs. of dry bark per tree, or a value for each tree of 24*s.* Of the remainder 3,945 trees were the Crown bark (C. Officinalis) yielding an average of 1½ lbs. of dry bark per tree with an average value of 16*s.* 1*d.* per tree.

In necessary connexion with this profitable experiment the Director points out how advantageous it would be in suitable localities to combine the cultivation of cinchona and coffee; I am glad to say that there are indications of steps being taken to do so.

The small plantation of jalap is quite successfully established in point of cultivation, its luxuriance being such in congenial soil that it is almost impossible to eradicate it, but its commercial success has not yet been determined. Difficulty has hitherto prevailed in thoroughly drying the tubers, but it is expected with some confidence that a way out of the difficulty presents itself in sending the produce of the plantation to be "sun-dried" on a "barbecue" at the Kingston Parade Gardens, where the cinchona bark has been similarly treated with success.

Castleton Gardens.—Of the numerous objects of botanical interest and plants of practical utility grown in these gardens it would be scarcely possible in available limits to select representatives which would give a fair idea of the collection. Suffice it to say that, notwithstanding the cyclone, the gardens appear to have made fair progress, as is evidenced by the functions of a nursery for the Island which it has so well discharged during the year. A scientific catalogue of all the plants in the plantations and gardens is being prepared, and will prove very useful.

Kingston Parade Garden.—This suffered the loss of several fine trees by the cyclone in August last, but many that were blown down were by the gardener's art speedily restored to an upright position with every chance of recovering themselves. This place of resort in the very centre of the city is greatly appreciated by the inhabitants to whom it affords grateful refuge from the dusty streets and narrow lanes.

Palisades Plantation.—The cocoanut trees planted out here now number 23,000, 3,000 having been planted during the year.

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The yield of the year has been 49,000 nuts, realising from 65*s.* to 70*s.* per thousand when sold in the Colony, but this is the produce of not more than a fourth part of the plantation, the greater number of trees not having yet fruited.

In accordance with a suggestion of mine to the Director, and as another step towards making the most of the resources of this plantation, a quantity of "copra" (the kernel thoroughly dried in the sun) has been prepared and is about to be exported with the view of testing its market value.

The question of setting up machinery for the manufacture of oil and coir is one that will no doubt present itself for consideration very soon. It is one that is not bounded by that of the remunerative character of this particular industry on the Government plantation. In a place so sadly deficient in manufactories or miscellaneous employment of any sort fitted for persons unsuited to field labour or sugar cultivation, demonstration of success in such a new enterprise might have the effect of inducing many to follow in other directions the example thus afforded, to say nothing of the larger sums that would be realised if oil were manufactured here from the nuts instead of exporting them, the sad waste of so much valuable coir as now takes place would be avoided and would add in its value to the profits of the proprietors of cocoanut plantations.

Hope Plantation.—There are now but five varieties of cane cultivated, one of which is the "Salangore" out of the 60 at first imported for experimental cultivation. Of these five varieties 30,000 tops were available for distribution when the Director wrote his annual report. The part of Government having been performed in the experiments made in regard to the introduction of these new varieties, their systematic cultivation will be abandoned, although supplies of the best canes will still be kept for distribution. The teak trees which occupy about 10 acres have satisfactorily progressed, but the mahogany trees have not done so well, owing it is said to the rather gravelly nature of the soil and the excessive drought of the last season.

In reviewing the working of the plantations and gardens, it is evident that during the year it has attained a high standard of excellence, and shows signs of great improvement in many directions. Besides the scientific catalogue of plants to which reference has already been made, a botanical library has been formed, and an herbarium has been started. These steps will add greatly to the scientific value of the department.

There is much gratifying evidence of the growing favour entertained, and benefit enjoyed with regard to the gardens and plantations under Mr. Morris's successful administration, not only by the public in the Colony, but by those at home and in foreign places in pursuit of either science or commerce, as is shown by the correspondence and requisitions received by that officer; there is reason also for believing that but for exaggerated apprehensions arising out of the reports of the cyclone of last year, the result of such interest would have taken a very practical shape greatly beneficial to the Colony, by the introduction of new enterprise

and new capital, which was frightened away by startling accounts of disaster very much over-rated. In illustration of the reality of this growing interest, it may be mentioned that, although a charge is now made for what was formally given away, the distribution of plants from Castleton and Hope had in 1880 increased to 100,000, from half that number in the preceding year, and that our annual distributions of cinchona and other plants now reach probably 250,000. In the 10 months to 31st July of the current year 1881 the cash receipts from the sale of economic and other plants amounted to 677*l.*, and the proceeds of cinchona bark sales to 2,675*l.*, while the provision on the estimate for the total cost of the gardens and plantations department was 5,431*l.* For the success and popularity of the department, great credit is due to the Director, who has already displayed much efficiency, special and scientific intelligence, and hearty energy in his work in the Colony.

Education.

There has been a marked increase this year in the average attendance of the schools, attributable in some degree, perhaps, to the long continuance of fine weather and the absence of the usual rainy May seasons, which, when they occur, naturally prevent the children from moving about to a great extent.

A glance at the following figures will show the present numerical position of educational work as compared with last year, and with the first year of inspection under the new system.

—	Schools inspected.	Pupils.	
		On Books.	Average Attendance.
1880 - - -	681	56,382	32,871
1879 - - -	646	52,243	28,661
1869 - - -	286	19,764	12,216

—	Per-centage in average Attendance of Numbers in Books.	First-class Schools.
1880 - - -	58·30	70·
1879 - - -	54·86	64·
1869 - - -	61·81	1·

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Government Grants, including Building Grants.

	£	s.	d.
1880 - - -	20,492	17	0
1879 - - -	18,477	6	0
1869 - - -	2,978	0	0

The Chief Inspector calls attention to the small per-centage of the children, in comparison with the number on the books, that were in attendance at school, and I think finds an explanation in the suggestion that many are kept away at certain seasons to help their parents in their agricultural pursuits. These little workers are of great use, and the parents could in most cases ill afford to do without them, for example, when the little patch of coffee has to be picked, or the crop of peas to be shelled. That it would be an unalloyed good to insist upon the regular attendance at school of this class of children, thus cutting them off from the labour spoken of, is a matter that must be regarded in the light of the circumstances of the country, and the chief future occupations of the children themselves. The Chief Inspector is himself in his single year's experience not yet in a position to give a decided opinion upon the subject of compulsory education in Jamaica, and opinion in the country is much divided. In any case if such a system were introduced, it would necessarily be tentative and confined at first to the chief towns, but it is in these centres that there seems least necessity for coercion, and the measure could only be carried into effect by considerable increase of expenditure which would necessitate additional taxation. The increase of pupil-teachers is alluded to with satisfaction as being an improvement on the old monitorial system; but there is still great room for improvement in the standard of their acquirements as it appears that only a few passed in the first class.

In connexion with this subject, I may remark that a school for training female teachers was examined for the first time this year, and produced one qualified person. The great want of properly trained female teachers is much felt. One of the Inspectors alludes to it as a serious drawback to the cause of education here; and although there is no doubt a peculiar influence which is wielded by female teachers over the minds of young persons, their absence from the educational field might in some measure be supplied if there was a sufficient number of competent male teachers. This, I regret to say, is not the case, notwithstanding the effort of the training college, supported entirely by general revenue, and the one of Mico Institution, assisted from the same source; and it is one of the great hindrances to the progress of education here. One of the Inspectors seems to have struck the right chord when he calls attention to the want of progressive study on the part of these teachers. As he observes, the little learning they receive is considered sufficient by themselves, and they do not seem to care to add to it. A book is rarely read, and a stray newspaper

comprises almost their sole literature. This might not have seemed strange 10 years ago, but since the establishment of frequent steam communication with the United States cheap literature is brought to our doors at a trifling cost. It will no doubt gradually have its effect, and instead of the stray itinerant vendor of cheap nursery tales and religious tracts it is not too much to hope that bookstalls may soon be seen in every village.

It is gratifying to hear that falsification of the registers, which had been somewhat common, has now decreased to a minimum.

The storm of August last, as has been mentioned, did great damage to schoolhouses in parts of the Island, and half of the annual grant of 1,500*l.* usually made in aid of the erection of new school buildings, 1879–80, as well as the whole of that for 1880–81 have been given to assist in restoring them. Voluntary effort bestowed upon the like object is a feature which cannot be overlooked, and may be taken as a fact in support of the belief that the people themselves now take a great interest in the education of their children.

There is much to be criticised and a great deal to be done in placing the schools on par with those of other countries. As has been implied the teaching power is weak, the appliances of many of the schools are deficient, but these things cannot be mended in a day, and so long as it is apparent that progress and not retrogression is evinced we must be content to foster and to wait for that growth which cannot be artificially produced.

Immigration.

During the year ending 30th September 1880 two vessels arrived from India with 747 East Indian immigrants in the following proportions of men, women, and children.

453 Men.
195 Women.
49 Boys.
21 Girls.
29 Infants.

747 in all.

These people were placed in the parishes of Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth, Clarendon, St. Mary, and St. Catherine.

The Protector reports that the immigrants who arrived in the "Mofussitite" and "Robert Lees" in 1875 completed their term of indenture during the year and received their industrial certificates. Those ex "Poonah" and "Alnwick Castle" in 1870 completed their 10 years' residence in the Colony and have been afforded the opportunity of returning to India or being paid the usual commutation bounty in lieu thereof on colonisation.

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The one return ship the "Chetah" sailed for India in June with 376 souls, viz:—236 men, 91 women, 28 boys, 18 girls, and 3 infants, or 350 statute adults; they lodged 4,970*l.* 16*s.* in the Treasury and obtained bills for that sum on India. Many are known to have also taken away specie in the form of British sovereigns for which they expected to realize a profit on exchange, and as a matter of course with these people their personal ornaments were of considerable value, estimated by the Protector at 1,500*l.* I should think however that this estimate is probably much more than double the real amount. The men wear no ornaments; and an average of more than 15*l.* for 91 women whose ornaments are chiefly of silver seems altogether excessive.

It is gratifying to learn that the condition of the people on their arrival has evoked pointed expression of satisfaction, both from the Protector at Calcutta and the Agent for the Colony in India, as the first instance of so satisfactory a voyage with return immigrants that has ever come under their notice. And it speaks well for the department and is highly creditable to the return immigrants themselves that a letter should have been received by the Protector in Jamaica from one of their number expressing the thanks of all for their treatment while in Jamaica, and for the comfortable arrangements made for their return.

The per-centage of mortality amongst the indentured immigrants during the year has been small, being only 2·34 against 3·10. During 1878–9 the rates for the general population were, as stated elsewhere, 2·7 and 2·33 respectively. The fact may be regarded as evidence that care is taken of the East Indians during their acclimatization, and this favourable result is a very satisfactory feature in the immigration system of the Colony as at present organized.

Owing to the protracted drought the immigrants whose indentures have run out have found themselves placed in unusual competition with native labour on the estates, but have been able to secure a fair share of employment, and are reported to be in no way dissatisfied with their employment.

Of the immigrants who have settled in the country it may be said they are thriving and contented, many own land to a considerable extent, and as a body are steadily industrious and well behaved.

There were in all 2,237 immigrants under indentures on the 30th September 1880, and 5,485 completing their residence of 10 years in the Colony, while the number who have completed that residence and remain in the Colony is estimated at 7,505, making a total East Indian immigrant population of 15,227. These numbers, however, bear an insignificant proportion to the natural increase of over 74,000 of the population in the 10 years between the census of 1871 and 1881. In this period numbers have been added to our labouring classes more than double the total population of the Island of Antigua or St. Vincent, for instance.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and amount of deposits in the bank for the last 10 years are shown below :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1871	3,026	105,478
1872	3,396	142,240
1873	3,962	158,933
1874	4,582	179,176
1875	5,061	228,028
1876	5,431	243,171
1877	5,756	253,983
1878	6,002	273,620
1879	6,341	294,589
1880	7,297	333,970

In the above amounts are included nine deposit accounts for the following public funds :

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Immigrant's colonization fund - -	19,218	3	7
Immigrant's return passage fund - -	2,807	5	2
Constabulary reward fund - - -	5,375	13	5
Constabulary pension fund - - -	14,680	7	6
Sinking funds - - - -	26,213	13	3
Smith and Beckford's charity - -	2,156	2	7
	70,451	5	6

There are further 135 accounts for trusts, charities, chancery suits, Administrator-General's suits, and bankrupt estates, amounting to a total deposit of 21,367*l.* The remaining 7,162 depositors of 242,151*l.* are all simple savings bank accounts.

Among the depositors were 441 Coolies with deposits amounting to 13,657*l.*

Of the deposits at 30th September 1880, 202,789*l.* were invested in Island debentures under different laws, 74,557*l.* were invested in the Three per Cent. Consols and Canadian and other Colonial debentures, 18,301*l.* were advanced on the notes of employers to whom Coolies were indentured, and the remainder of 44,288*l.*, in which was included 25,000*l.* in course of remittance at that time for investment in England, was uninvested.

Of the 7,297 accounts open at the close of the year 5,972, or more than three-fourths, were for amounts of 50*l.* or under, and 3,480, or nearly one half, were for amounts of 5*l.* and under, thus showing that the advantages of the Savings Bank are fully appreciated by the classes for whose convenience it was mainly intended to provide.

During the year 2,219 accounts were opened and 2,211 closed, and the transactions were represented by 12,625 deposits, amounting to 164,735*l.*, and by 13,144 withdrawals of 120,128*l.*

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The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors were 14,257*l.* against a revenue from investments of deposits and from interest allowed by general revenue on uninvested deposits of 14,994*l.*, leaving a difference in favour of the Institution of 737*l.* The expenses of management were 2,529*l.*, or three fourths of one per cent. on total deposits.

There can be no doubt of the value and success of the Savings Bank as a public institution. Still further improvement in the management of its affairs and in the arrangement of its investments will be effected by the operation of Laws 16 and 19 of 1880, which authorise the reduction of the rate of interest payable to depositors, and will enable the greater part of the funds held to be placed in securities other than local debentures.

Trade.

The value of the imports in each of the last 10 years has been as follows :—

	£		£
1870–71	- 1,331,185	1875–76	- 1,700,254
1871–72	- 1,559,602	1876–77	- 1,552,339
1872–73	- 1,733,121	1877–78	- 1,492,722
1873–74	- 1,762,817	1878–79	- 1,347,342
1874–75	- 1,759,942	1879–80	- 1,475,197

showing an increase of 127,855*l.* in the year under report over the year immediately preceding. Of this amount 122,808*l.* was in dutiable goods, and 5,047*l.* in free goods. The principal increases have been in cotton manufactures, 80,017*l.*; hardware, 11,243*l.*; haberdashery, 9,000*l.*; other, unenumerated, 12,209*l.*; bread, corn, flour, meal, pork, 51,235*l.*; rice, 15,278*l.*; ale and brandy, 10,471*l.*

The following table, showing the value of articles imported in 1879–80 which were freed from duty in 1867, is given in continuation of similar tables in previous reports :—

—	1870.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.	1877–78.	1878–79.	1879–80.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines -	5,460	4,738	14,033	28,603	11,485	18,152	15,360	14,735	8,857	7,306	2,802
Mills - -	3,434	9,825	21,644	13,804	10,219	5,803	5,128	1,643	2,115	5,724	2,661
Other machinery -	7,844	11,420	5,165	9,149	5,026	11,331	2,434	11,443	3,113	3,402	3,323
Pans for boiling sugar.	4,676	4,301	6,052	4,603	2,839	3,649	1,318	2,134	2,483	2,124	6,132
Pipes for fluids -	2,493	2,165	1,801	19,687	1,801	1,830	1,955	3,755	2,095	1,193	1,435
Stills - -	1,698	1,878	1,906	6,076	3,986	6,848	3,153	1,619	1,880	433	696
Shooks of all sorts -	12,180	13,187	16,743	17,051	17,070	20,299	15,845	14,545	11,761	7,460	8,488
Staves - -	3,823	5,431	7,945	5,205	15,207	21,650	11,816	19,503	6,040	4,524	10,519
Wood hoops -	2,981	3,857	2,653	1,856	1,822	2,192	1,609	1,447	2,066	1,643	1,919
Iron, galvanized -	3,142	3,818	5,666	6,971	5,339	5,746	4,533	3,259	2,229	2,097	974
„ other manufactures.	1,933	84	56	—	462	—	5	—	381	—	1,344
Miscellaneous -	3,348	2,369	5,367	5,243	3,559	3,050	3,872	5,651	3,730	4,892	4,592
	53,012	63,073	89,031	118,248	78,815	106,550	67,028	79,734	46,750	40,798	64,885

The value of the exports for each of the last 10 years is shown below: —

—	Values.		
	Of Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1870–71	1,196,532	52,153	1,248,685
1871–72	1,348,858	69,585	1,418,443
1872–73	1,144,173	81,838	1,226,011
1873–74	1,369,507	72,573	1,442,080
1874–75	1,359,868	50,616	1,410,484
1875–76	1,440,131	76,884	1,517,015
1876–77	1,419,625	39,004	1,458,669
1877–78	1,175,145	35,560	1,210,705
1878–79	1,262,869	94,702	1,357,571
1879–80	1,427,144	85,834	1,512,978

being an increase of 155,407*l.* over the previous year, and 170,663*l.* in excess of the average of the three preceding years.

Increases are to be noticed on all the principal exports and are on the items of cocoa, 4,287*l.*; ginger, 4,036*l.*; pimento, 66,175*l.*; sugar, 82,420*l.*; cigars, 3,489*l.*; bananas, 5,660*l.*; cocoa nuts, 7,553*l.*; oranges, 5,091*l.*; coffee, 5,583*l.*; and rum, 1,767*l.* Sugar is valued at the moderate price of 15*l.* 10*s* a hogshead. The quantities exported of the principal staples for the last 10 years are shown in the following table:—

Exports.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.	1877–78.	1878–79.	1879–80.
Sugar - - hhds.	37,010	35,353	28,428	28,398	27,847	29,074	30,569	26,066	29,151	32,117
Rum - - plns.	19,376	20,113	16,584	19,350	21,359	22,048	20,648	18,115	18,792	8,586
Coffee - - lbs.	5,508,989	9,510,739	7,199,144	10,311,427	7,136,307	8,649,049	9,532,887	9,411,662	10,8[illegible]2,127	10,188,89
Pimento - lbs.	6,857,830	5,140,898	6,024,551	5,762,256	6,440,040	4,474,690	6,670,603	6,195,109	5,881,176	10,215,479
Dyewoods — fustic and logwood - tons	59,951	80,699	52,952	65,241	84,523	77,229	47,697	36,070	58,658	48,024
Ginger - lbs.	632,031	590,766	815,659	1,181,789	1,490,845	1,613,764	1,097,863	908,603	769,636	889,847
Arrowroot - lbs.	5,820	13,193	2,470	1,636	21,983	21,152	3,514	4,599	7,982	4,480

It is satisfactory to notice that the new product of cinchona appears in our export returns at the satisfactory figure of 7,302*l.* as the value of 23,981 lbs. exported, which, however, is as yet almost entirely that from the Government plantation, only a small quantity of succirubra bark having hitherto been produced by private growers. The value of the fruit exported also shows a

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continued increase as compared with previous years. A statement of the value of the fruit exported is shown below :—

	£
1871–72 - - -	6,190
1872–73 - - -	4,757
1873–74 - - -	10,397
1874–75 - - -	9,337
1875–76 - - -	20,526
1876–77 - - -	22,350
1877–78 - - -	39,451
1878–79 - - -	40,175
1879–80 - - -	51,295

The principal increase in the last year was in oranges, from 9,424,757 valued at 6,597*l.* to 14,609,489 of the value of 11,688*l.* The whole of this fruit, with the exception of that to the value of 300*l.*, went to the United States, which may be said now to be in weekly steam communication of a less than seven days' voyage.

Indeed, the general freedom of trade and facility of transport has diverted the current of interchange between the Colony and other places from the United Kingdom to America in the last 10 years in a somewhat remarkable degree. In 1869–70 the imports from the United Kingdom and from the States were respectively 58 and 20 per cent. of the total, while in 1879–80 the percentages had changed to 53 and 32. The exports, which were 77 per cent. to the United Kingdom and 5 per cent. to the States in the former year, were in the latter 67 and 20 per cent. respectively.

Agriculture.

In reviewing the return furnished by the Collector-General for the year 1879–80 of the collections of property tax the following figures serve to illustrate the agricultural position of the Island.

	1878–79.	1879–80.
	Acres.	Acres.
Cultivated lands - - - -	120,596	121,230
Guinea grass - - - -	120,292	119,837
Common pasture - - - -	264,905	257,893
Pimento - - - - -	1,155	377
Common pasture and pimento - -	40,457	47,718
Wood and runiate - - - -	1,194,435	1,272,825

From the following figures the area in cultivation of some of the principal staples may be judged.

	1878–79.	1879–80.
	Acres.	Acres.
Canes - - - - -	44,860	43,071
Coffee - - - - -	21,316	20,732
Ginger - - - - -	111	135

The average in ground provisions, the staple food of the people, has increased year by year, and in the last four years stands thus:—

1876–77.	1877–78.	1878–79.	1879–80.
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
49,320	51,836	53,247	56,365

This progressive extension may be regarded as proportionate to the increase of population and of the class of small freeholders. At the same time it gives denial to the alarming reports which are so industriously circulated of the prevalence of prædial larceny as preventing the peasantry from planting. The figures for this year under this and other heads of direct taxes would undoubtedly have been higher if orders had not been given to the collectors of taxes to exercise great leniency in enforcing the taxes in certain districts reported to have suffered from the effects of the drought, and of the storm of August 1880.

Turning to the larger staples an apparent decrease will be found under the head of cane and coffee cultivation, not altogether corresponding with the small diminution in the export of rum and coffee and with the considerable increase in sugar; but an increase in the value of all these items is observable, and it is not therefore diminished price that has reduced production

Cultivation.

——	1877–78.	1878–79.	1879–80.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Canes - - -	46,333	44,860	43,071
Coffee - - -	21,439	21,316	20,732

Exports.

——	1877–78.		1878–79.		1879–80.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£		£
Sugar - - hds.	26,066	379,107	29,151	415,404	32,117	497,824
Rum - - phns.	18,115	213,271	18,792	197,324	18,586	209,092
Coffee - - cwt.	84,032	271,450	96,715	249,138	90,972	254,722

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Tobacco cultivation, of which great hopes are entertained, has maintained its ground and improved its position. The acreage returned refers only to the plantations devoted solely to tobacco; as has been pointed out in a previous report there is a large quantity of tobacco grown by small settlers which is not shown in the statistics. The tobacco so grown is absorbed by the consumption of the local peasantry; owing to want of proper curing it is rarely used except by the lower orders and is seldom exported.

In the export of pimento a large increase is shown notwithstanding the apparent decrease in its cultivation.

	Cwt.	Value.
		£
1879 - - -	52,510	79,395
1880 - - -	91,209	145,570

The acreage in pimento cultivation so returned is misleading, as in fact no pimento is properly speaking cultivated, the berries being gathered from trees practically growing wild and self-sown, for a sort of superstition has prevailed until recently that the tree could not be grown from seeds planted for the purpose. It is difficult to obtain reliable returns in a case of this sort where pimento is not the only product of the land, the acreage of which is given in to the tax collector.

Some attention is being given to cocoa cultivation, but the result will not be apparent for some years and until the trees commence to bear fruit. The small acreage compared with the exports as shown below would lead to the supposition that the cocoa is being cultivated side by side with other produce in respect of which the property is returned elsewhere for taxes.

	1876–77.	1877–78.	1878–79.	1879–80.
Acreage - - -	41	21	35	34
Exports - - cwt.	375	1,694	215	3,304

Cinchona appears this year for the first time in the list of exports. The bark exported was chiefly the produce of the Government plantations, 23,981 lbs. of the stated value of 7,302*l.* 14*s.* having been shipped to London, but there have been other small exportations from cultivations of private owners.

A great impetus has been given to the cultivation of this valuable tree by the success attending the experiment undertaken by Government, and it may be confidently hoped that in the course of a few years, from the attention which the subject is now receiving, the export of cinchona bark will rank high on the list of exports. There is a large quantity of land available which is well suited for the growth of cinchona, for the acquisition of which on liberal terms facilities have recently been offered by

public notification, and I am glad to find inquiries made from time to time on the subject. There seems to be some prospect that this land which has long remained in a state of nature, if it ever was cultivated, may be taken up by capitalists.

The fruit trade shows an increase in all kinds of fruit shipped, the principal trade being with America. The figures for the last five years are as follows:—

Pineapple.

——	Dozens.	Value.
		£
1880 - - -	3,480	522
1879 - - -	1,908	381
1878 - - -	1,140	341
1877 - - -	33	8
1876 - - -	195	48

Oranges.

——	No.	Value.
		£
1880 - - -	14,609,489	11,687
1879 - - -	9,424,757	6,597
1878 - - -	10,246,550	7,172
1877 - - -	8,238,940	5,767
1876 - - -	9,764,972	6,835

Bananas.

——	Bunches.	Value.
		£
1880 - - -	440,642	38,556
1879 - - -	328,953	32,895
1878 - - -	313,145	31,314
1877 - - -	162,934	16,293
1876 - - -	132,832	13,283

Cocoanut.

——	No.	Value.
		£
1880 - - -	6,315,475	20,525
1879 - - -	3,930,868	12,971
1878 - - -	3,072,182	9,216
1877 - - -	2,464,575	7,393
1876 - - -	1,840,315	5,520

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In connexion with the figures given above, it may be observed that the American Consul at Kingston in a valuable report to his Government speaks of the fruit trade of this Island as next in importance to pimento, one of the great staples, but he remarks "it would really be at the head if the figures given to the Customs were the same as certified to in the invoices."

And there is no doubt that the Consul speaks with authority, for nearly all the fruit, as has been before mentioned, is shipped to the United States, and he has copies of the invoices in his possession from time to time.

Severe drought prevailed more or less throughout the Island during the year, and as a consequence cultivation generally was injured and checked. In some parishes the peasantry suffered severely from want of water, and in some districts of St. Elizabeth the people were reduced to great distress for want of food, but the municipal authorities with commendable activity took measures to avert distress.

There has been but little demand for planter's stock, but cattle have kept up in price, and some estates thrown out of cultivation have been converted into breeding pens. A small export trade in cattle continues with Cuba, and it may be regarded as extremely likely that with the numerous lines of steamers now trading to the Island, competition being so great, some of the carrying power will be utilised for the transport of cattle to that Island and to the neighbouring Colones.

Police.

During the year under review the force has been kept up at very nearly its full strength being on 30th September last, 21 officers and 688 non-commissioned officers and men.

It is satisfactory to learn that the order and discipline was fairly good and that no difficulty was found in recruiting. Of the 115 vacancies occurring during the year, 19 were by voluntary discharge, 33 were removed for physical inability and 53 were dismissed for neglect of duty or other misconduct.

Reviewing the crimes to which attention is directed in the Inspector-General's report as coming within the cognizance of the police, reference may be made to the following as the more prominent.

Murder.—It is very noticeable that many cases of this foul crime go unpunished although arrests are made by the police in almost every case that occurs. The failure is attributable to the difficulty of procuring evidence, there being a strong disinclination among the people to come forward and inform. The obloquy which attaches to an informer seems to have influence in Jamaica not less than in other places, and the reward which is frequently offered for information or evidence leading to conviction is seldom claimed. The fear of the "Obeahman" is said also still to prevail as a power which advancing civilization and education have not yet completely overturned.

As bearing on this point it may however be noticed that 20 convictions in cases of the practice of "Obeah" were obtained during the year as against nine last year. It may perhaps be taken as a sign that the evil practice is gradually losing its control over the minds of the people, that these impostors have been brought to punishment.

Prædial larceny has I regret to say shown an increase in the number of cases during this year, the figures being—

1880	-	-	1,466
1879	-	-	1,317
1878	-	-	1,852
1877	-	-	1,465

but it will be seen that the number is scarcely greater than in 1877 and is decidedly less than in 1878, variations must be expected. The prevailing drought and the damage done in one or two districts by the storm occasioning a great scarcity of ground provisions and a consequent privation among the lower classes may be held to account for some of this increase, but looking at the population of Jamaica the proportion of crimes of this nature is small. The law of 1877 providing the punishment of flogging for a first offence, and passed on the urgent pressure of every class of the community, has not had a deterring effect in the presence of inducing causes to this kind of crime. It should be borne in mind that in some parts of the Island it is stated that the offence hardly exists.

It is often said that the number of cases reported to the police represents but a small part of those which occur, but if this be the case it is apparent that the very means of repressing the evil placed within reach is designedly disregarded. And naturally if the detection of the persons who commit the offence is seldom a matter about which those who are robbed trouble themselves, the thieves become bold by impunity.

If the people could be induced to adopt the principle which has frequently been impressed on them, and which is just publicly adopted in one parish (St. Thomas), of mutually aiding in watching the fields and detecting thefts, and if a strong public opinion of their own could be evoked in an unmistakeable manner, prædial larceny to any extent would soon cease; but it is unfortunately too true that there is no cohesion in the community of the small settlers here, and no high standard of public morality.

There can scarcely be said to be a distinct criminal class in the Island although there are many "habitual criminals," and to come within the grasp of the law seldom lowers the individual in the sight of his fellow men.

Forcible entry and detainer.—There were 22 cases within the cognizance of the police; this crime has decreased of late years owing to an amelioration of the law which has rendered the trial of ejectment cases speedier and cheaper than before, but it

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nevertheless exists, fostered by unscrupulous village lawyers who, in these cases and in cases of unlawful possession of land, with which these latter persons are always mixed up, continue to gather a comfortable income from the quarrels of their less educated neighbours.

The police report that the Vaccination Laws have been extensively enforced in Kingston, and the Contagious Diseases Law also enforced in Kingston and St. Andrew's.

They fairly claim that by their warnings 733 children were brought to the Vaccinating Medical Officer, who has expressed himself as satisfied and pleased with the assistance given to him by the police.

Turning to the chief city of the Island, it is surprising how few burglaries take place considering the unwatched and unprotected state of the greater part of private property. There were only 16 cases of shopbreaking reported to the police, and but 62 cases of larcenies from dwellings, which are not necessarily accompanied by housebreaking, but are oftenest the petty pilfering of servants. Out of the 16 cases of shopbreaking reported the culprits in 8 cases were discovered, and of the larcenies were discovered in 45 out of the 62 reported cases.

The Inspector-General reports the good effect of an increased circulation of the Police Gazette in the recovery of stolen property and in the tracing of offenders, and that many proprietors apply to be supplied with it regularly, finding it of great use to themselves and their immediate neighbourhood.

The Habitual Criminals' Register is said to have been satisfactorily kept up, and a proper supervision exercised over the persons registered.

The Inspector-General reports a marked improvement in the working of the detective system since the issue by him of some "special orders." A meed of praise seems due to the water police for an effective patrol of the wharves and seabord lanes, and for the recovery of dead bodies of the drowned and the assistance afforded to drowning persons in the harbour of Kingston. It is a matter of satisfaction, though it may be said no more than was expected when the body was organised, that the rural police have been of great assistance to the constabulary; properly managed by the Inspector of a parish they must of necessity be an invaluable adjunct to the strength of the regular constabulary. It should not be forgotten that the difficulties experienced by police in affording protection and surveillance are much enhanced by the scattered distribution of a population of 580,000 over an area of 4,200 square miles.

Prisons.

An inspection of the figures submitted in the Inspector's annual report shows a slight increase during the year, in comparison with the previous one, in the number of prisoners in custody in the several gaols and prisons, but the number is still below the record of antecedent years. The increase appears in the district

and short term prisons, the decrease in the Penitentiary leading to the conclusion that grave crime is decreasing if minor offences have increased And. allowance must always in fairness be made for the fact that the population is regularly and largely increasing in number. If crimes do not increase in number this is equivalent to a diminution in ratio.

The following return shows the prisoners in confinement in the General Penitentiary, and the several gaols, district and short term prisons for the last five years:—

——	1875-76.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1878-79.	1879-80.
Penitentiary - -	614	703	612	612	575
District and Short Term Prisons and Gaols.					
St. Catherine - -	175	196	215	162	188
Mandeville - - -	90	49	71	48	51
St. Mary - - -	76	63	64	42	57
Falmouth and Cornwall County Gaol (combined).	110	122	132	70	85
Montego Bay - -	19	16	14	11	12
Hanover - - -	54	42	69	50	63
Morant Bay - -	11	8	10	8	14
Black River - -	7	5	12	6	16
St. Ann's Bay - -	2	7	15	5	17
Port Antonio - -	9	11	6	12	9
Middlesex and Surrey County Goal.	35	37	49	28	41
Total - -	1,202	1,259	1,269	1,054	1,128

The employment of the prisoners has not varied, being chiefly of a remunerative character. Shot drill is in use, but sparingly, in a few prisons, and the treadmill is only available in the Penitentiary. Convicts are still employed at the Government (Imperial) Defence Works at Rocky Point and Port Royal, the value of their labour during the year being placed at 985*l.* 6*s.*

The earnings of the Penitentiary have not reached as high a figure as last year, but the Inspector ascribes the falling off in some measure to the labour and material utilised in the building in the prison of a new hospital and a range of cells, as well as to the unremunerated labour on the Imperial fortifications.

The following figures show the cost and earnings of the several prisons during the year:—

Cost.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
General Penitentiary - -	13,653	14	0
Gaols, District and Short Term Prisons - - -	7,682	13	2
	21,336	7	2

Earnings.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
General Penitentiary	4,609	8	7			
Gaols, &c. - -	7,167	11	5			
				11,777	0	0
Making the net cost of the Prisons				9,559	7	2

The net cost per prisoner, after deducting earnings, was 18*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* in the Penitentiary, and ranged in the country prisons from 16*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* at Mandeville to 7*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.* at Lucca.

The prisoners in the Penitentiary have suffered to some extent from intermittent and remittent fevers, but not in any important degree.

The spiritual needs of the prisoners in the Penitentiary are still ministered to by a body of ministers of religion acting voluntarily, and a schoolmaster or moral instructor is employed. The library of the Penitentiary is said to be well supplied and much used.

Vital Statistics.

The population of the Island which was estimated by the Registrar-General on 30th June 1878, at 558,256, with an annual increase of 6,000, has since proved by the recent census to be 580,804, with an annual increase of nearly 7,500 since 1871. The census will more properly fall among the subjects for remark in the next annual report, but the fact may be noted here in passing.

There were 21,367 births and 15,084 deaths recorded during the year, the natural increase of population being 6,283 against 5,746 recorded by the results of the registration of 1878–79. This difference may be, however, more apparent than real, the requirements of the Registration Law being now better understood and fairly attended to. These figures give a birth rate of 38·2 of every 1,000 of the estimated population against the rates of 35·5 for the previous year.

Of the births it must with regret be recorded that 58·9 per cent. were illegitimate. This, however, shows a slight improvement upon last year's return which was 59·3 per cent., while this proportion is no worse than in most West Indian Colonies, it is not a satisfactory result. A purer social life might be expected in view of the powerful Christian agencies that have been at work in the Island for many years, but a lax system of morality amongst the higher classes has in former years proved a great stumbling-block in the way of ministers and missionaries. This state of things is, however, fast dying out, and among a people so prone to follow the example of their superiors as are those of this country, it is hoped that marriages will be more frequent.

On the 1st January 1880, the registration of marriages was transferred under Law 15 of 1880 from the Island Record Office to that of the Registrar-General, and important changes in the Marriage Law made. The Law is regarded by the Registrar as still susceptible of improvement, but facilities are given by it for marriage which did not previously exist. Marriages can now be contracted before a Registrar, but few have availed themselves of this mode of proccedure, only 15 marriages by civil contract having been recorded.

The figures furnished by the Registrar-General show that the proportion of marriages to the population during the year was only 3·7 per 1,000, being the lowest on the list of European countries and British Colonies which he mentions. An improved moral and social condition, which cannot be well expected in a single generation, can alone correct this unfortunate feature.

The death rate for the year was 27·0 per 1,000, against 23·3, for 1878–9. The city of Kingston shows the highest rate, 37·3 per 1,000. But this naturally is the case in the chief town with its congregation of diseased and infirm in hospitals and poor-houses, and of indigent and poverty stricken in the poorer quarters of the suburbs. St. Thomas' and St. Andrew's parishes come next with 29·3 and 29·1 respectively. The parishes of St. Ann and Hanover standing lowest at 23·1 and 23·4 respectively.

The mortality appears to have been highest between the months of October and March, the coolest season of the year; this is observed to occur in the West Indies generally, and the fact is not consistent with a prevalent supposition that the cool months must be the healthiest.

The heavy death rate amongst children is somewhat alarming, and I fear must be charged chiefly to neglect on the part of parents.

The number of children under one year who died in 1879–80 was 4,199, and of those under five years old 6,817; the proportion to 100 births being respectively 19·6 and 31·8. This latter death rate gives the large proportion of 86·6 for every 1,000 children alive in the Colony, while the corresponding number in England in 1878 is stated to have been 66·7.

A great deal of this mortality is ascribed to the incompetency of midwives, and to the neglect of children in respect of their diet and infantile diseases; this latter cause in my opinion being the principal source of a mischief springing originally from the criminal carelessness of a class of mothers whose natural affection is almost destroyed by their contempt for the bonds of domestic life and the inconvenient results of illicit intercourse.

There are still returned a large proportion of deaths of which the causes are not certified by medical practitioners, although a slight improvement in this respect is recorded in the year under report, and this element still qualifies the accuracy of the statements of the causes of death. The uncertified cases are known, however, to include a number of chronic and incurable diseases

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and many which may at some time previous to death have received medical attention.

The want of medical assistance to the sick is caused by the reluctance of the people themselves in many cases to incur the expense of calling in a doctor, but there are some cases in which medical aid cannot be had in time, owing to the scattered population, and the extent of the districts.

These form, no doubt, the greater number of those not certified, but there still must be a proportion of cases where a difficulty is found in obtaining the medical certificate. These drawbacks to the strict application of the Law will all more or less continue for some time to come, but year by year they may be expected to diminish.

There appears to have been a large increase this year in zymotic diseases, mainly referable to an epidemic of whooping cough, which was very prevalent throughout the Island, and claimed 1,829 victims, especially amongst the young, nine-tenths of the whole number being those of children under five.

It is very satisfactory to find in the face of the bad reputation for disease from which Jamaica suffers that only two fatal cases of yellow fever occurred in the Island during the year, and these were deaths of seamen from merchant ships in the harbour of Kingston. And it should be borne in mind that this disease affects especially a class who will always have medical attendance, and whose cases cannot fail to be registered.

Ague and remittent fever claimed 169 cases, against 139 in the previous year, which is a very favourable proportion for a tropical climate.

General.

The chief event of social interest during the year was the arrival and stay in the Island for a few days of the Princes Albert Victor and George of Wales, who, as midshipmen on board H.M.S. "Bacchante," were on a cruize in the West Indies. During their visit to Jamaica the Royal Princes were received with that loyalty which marks all Her Majesty's Colonial possessions.

During the whole year a severe drought was experienced; some rain fell at the time of the cyclone, but not sufficient to meet agricultural wants; and the drought may be said to have lasted until December, causing a great scarcity of ground provisions, the chief food of the peasantry in several districts of the Island. The constant and easy communication which now exists with the United States of America proved of great advantage in keeping up a regular supply of bread stuffs, and prices have not risen.

Upon the night of the 18th August a cyclone passed over the eastern half of the Island. It lasted for about five hours, and did considerable damage to buildings and crops. The injury done by this storm, with the exception of the destruction of churches and chapels, has been proved by results to be within the compass of local means to restore. The effects of the cyclone upon the

circumstances of the people would not have been severe, but for the drought which preceded and followed it; had there been more seasonable weather and better food crops, losses from the disaster from which they are now fortunately recovering, would have been sooner retrieved.

(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE,
Governor.

19th September, 1881.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 5.

Governor KORTRIGHT, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
July 25, 1881.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit the report on the Blue Book of British Guiana for the year 1880.

2. It has been drawn up by Mr. Collier, chief clerk in the Government Secretary's Office. I consider it a most exhaustive and excellent report, and it affords much valuable information. Mr. Collier deserves much credit for this carefully compiled document.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the COLONY of BRITISH GUIANA for the Year 1880.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

1. The principal change made in taxation during the year was the imposition of an acreage tax of 8*s.* 4*d.* for each acre of land under cane cultivation and 1*d.* for each acre empoldered but not under cane cultivation. The tax is leviable only on plantations on which sugar is manufactured of more than 50 acres under cane cultivation, and is appropriated in diminution of the amounts payable by employers of indentured immigrants to the Immigration Fund.

2. Other minor changes were, the imposition of a license duty of 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* on the sale of wine and malt liquor when sold in

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places other than spirit shops, hotels, or taverns, and a tax of 8*s.* 4*d* on hucksters; also the re-classification of retail spirit shop licenses. These changes have only been in operation during the last six months of the year. The wine and malt tax has during that period yielded 3,330*l.*, and the hucksters license 658*l.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. *Revenue.*—The receipts on account of general revenue in 1880 amounted to 404,461*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.* showing an increase of 8,720*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* as compared with the revenue of 1879. This increase arises principally from wine and spirit duties and licence duties. It was occasioned by the increased importation, for speculative purposes in contemplation of an increased rate of duty, of Tarragona wine during the early part of the year, and the re-arrangement of the import duty on wine by rating the duty according to the proof spirit contained in the wine, and by the imposition of a license duty on the sale of wine and malt liquors.

4. The excise duty on rum having been increased during the year the revenue derived from that source was 6,435*l.* 3*s.* 1½*d.* in excess of the revenue from the same source in 1879, but there was a more than corresponding decrease in the revenue from retail spirit licenses, which were concurrently re-classed; viz., a decrease of 7,825*l.* The receipts from import duties were 3,390*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.* less than in the preceding year. This decrease may be attributed in some degree to decreased prices, and possibly to a slight depression in the trade of the Colony.

5. *Expenditure.*—The general expenditure amounted to 394,592*l.* 11*s.* 11½*d.*, an increase of 6,949*l.* 16*s.* 4½*d.*, on the expenditure of 1879. The principal items of increase were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Roads and bridges - - -	5,151	17	1½
Mail service - - -	4,871	17	6
Education - - -	1,507	13	4
Medical (hospitals) - -	1,250	4	1½

6. The expenditure on roads and bridges is for the greater part, presumably, recoverable from the proprietors of estates, being principally composed of sums of money expended by the Government in maintaining the public roads in consequence of the failure of proprietors to comply with the Road Ordinance, and for which expenditure the estate becomes ultimately liable. The Overland mail service having been performed under contract instead of by the Police Department there was of necessity an increase of expenditure under that head, and there was a corresponding decrease in the expenditure in the Police Department. The increase under the head of education was caused by additional expenditure at Queen's College, the Training Institution, and on elementary education. The increased expenditure at the hospitals arose from the increased number of patients admitted into those institutions in 1880.

Under the head of immigration there was a decrease of 5,335*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, owing to the introduction in 1880 of fewer immigrants than in the previous year.

7. The following table affords a comparison of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Revenue.

——	——	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	363,807 19 0	11,671 2 2	—
1877	389,871 10 4	26,063 11 4	—
1878	409,259 4 5	19,387 14 1	—
1879	395,740 13 2½	—	13,518 11 2½
1880	404,461 6 0½	8,720 12 10	—
		65,843 0 5	13,518 11 2½

Actual increase in 5 years £52,324 11*s.* 2½*d.*

Expenditure.

——	——	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	343,734 10 2	—	12,244 11 8
1877	380,565 12 2½	36,831 2 0½	—
1878	417,995 15 10½	37,430 3 8	—
1879	387,642 15 7	—	30,353 0 3½
1880	394,592 11 11½	6,949 16 4½	—
		81,211 2 1	42,597 11 11½

Actual increase in 5 years 38,613*l.* 10*s.* 1½*d.*

Local Revenues.

8. *Georgetown.*—The revenue raised for municipal purposes in the city of Georgetown amounted to 35,404*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.*, and was derived chiefly from a tax of two per centum on the appraised value of property in the city. The expenditure amounted to 36,385*l.* 6*s.* 8½*d.*

9. *New Amsterdam.*—The revenue of the town of New Amsterdam, composed of a tax of two per centum on the appraised value of town property, a contribution from the general revenue and receipts from town fees, amounted to 6,286*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* The expenditure was 6,022*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

10. *Villages.*—The revenue of the 31 incorporated villages in the Colony amounted in the aggregate to 9,135*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, including a sum of 3,875*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* due by ratepayers at the close of the year. The actual expenditure was 6,668*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* and the liabilities on the 31st December 1880 amounted to 24,064*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*

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11. The following tables show the local revenue and expenditure for the previous four years.

Revenue.

——	1876.			1877.			1878.			1879.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
City of Georgetown	34,966	5	7½	38,067	12	6½	38,078	18	5½	34,993	5	1
Town of New Amsterdam.	4,435	5	0	4,847	11	1¼	4,766	18	6	4,503	16	8½
Incorporated villages	8,482	14	4½	7,514	6	8½	7,705	13	5	8,769	6	2
	47,884	5	0	50,429	10	4½	50,551	10	4½	48,266	7	11½

Expenditure.

——	1876.			1877.			1878.			1879.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
City of Georgetown	35,173	5	7	36,445	11	4½	38,609	13	9	35,295	6	3½
Town of New Amsterdam.	5,697	17	6½	4,953	16	1½	3,840	15	11½	4,503	16	8½
Incorporated villages	6,289	0	5	5,627	15	8	4,892	12	3	6,142	0	4½
	47,160	3	6½	47,027	3	2	47,343	1	11½	45,942	3	6½

Public Debt.

12. The amount of the public debt of the Colony on the 31st December 1880 for which the general revenue is directly pledged was 51,324*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, an increase of 33,957*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* over the public debt of 1879. This excess arises from additional loans for public purposes under Ordinance 6 of 1879.

13. The loans guaranteed by the general revenue were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
For immigration purposes, on the security of sugar estates by notes given for indenture fees - - - - -	318,400	0	0
For the Mayor and Town Council of the City of Georgetown, secured by the municipal revenue - - - - -	44,053	6	8
Carried forward - - -	362,453	6	8

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward - -	362,453	6	8
For the Board of Superintendence of the town of New Amsterdam, secured by the town revenue - - - - -	5,277	15	6½
Total guaranteed by general revenue -	367,731	2	2½
Amount for which general revenue is directly pledged - - - -	51,324	13	4
Grand total - - -	419,055	15	6½

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

14. The Colonial expenditure was 3,207*l.* 1*s.* 0½*d.*, and the imperial expenditure 14,781*l.* 6*s.* The strength of the Georgetown militia on the 31st December was 15 officers, 11 sergeants, and 585 rank and file. The strength of the British Guiana volunteer force was five officers, seven sergeants, and 156 rank and file.

PUBLIC WORKS.

15. The Combined Court made provision for public works to the extent of 71,840*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, but the actual expenditure during the year only amounted to 42,425*l.* 15*s.* 0½*d.*, 5,913*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* less than the actual expenditure in the preceding year. This may be attributed to the weakness of the Public Works Department, the staff being inadequate to carry out the numerous works for which provision was made.

16. The following were the largest items of expenditure during the year, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
On the extension of the bonded warehouse in Georgetown - - - - -	6,537	15	4½
On the sea wall and dam - - -	3,352	11	7½
On the construction of a new public hospital for the county of Berbice - - -	1,966	13	4

LEGISLATION.

17. During the year 33 Ordinances were passed by the Legislature, of which the following are the more important, viz.:— Ordinance 9 of 1880—"The Public Officers Guarantee Fund Ordinance." The fund established by this Ordinance is formed by contributions from officers required to give security of one per centum per annum on the amount guaranteed, and is intended to obviate the necessity of officers having to take advantage of the good will and confidence of their friends, also to remove the embarrassment often experienced by strangers taking up appointments in the Colony in obtaining the security which may be required of them.

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Ordinance 15 of 1880—"The Polder Ordinance." The principal object of this Ordinance is to afford relief to the proprietors of provision estates and cattle farms in respect to the maintenance of the public roads passing through their properties, by providing for the formation of districts into polders and the equal distribution of the expense of maintaining the roads and the drainage of the lands.

Ordinance 16 of 1880—"The Gold Mining Ordinance." This Ordinance provides for the granting of licenses to mines for gold and silver, and was passed by the Legislature in view of the reasonable probability of gold and silver mines being opened in the interior of the Colony.

Ordinance 17 of 1880—"The Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance." By this Ordinance, amongst other things, power is conferred on Stipendiary Magistrates to deal summarily with certain indictable offences, on the consent thereto of the persons charged.

Ordinance 21 of 1880.—"The Prevention of Shipping Casualties Ordinance." This enactment provides for the prevention of unseaworthy ships proceeding to sea, and for ensuring that vessels employed in the coasting trade are kept in a seaworthy condition.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

18. The number of registered electors in December 1880 was 715, showing an increase of 54 over the previous year. This number, however, still represents but a small portion of the persons resident in the Colony who are by franchise qualified to vote at elections. The elections are seldom contested.

19. The annual assembly of the Combined Court in 1880 is conspicuous as being one of unusual duration and interest. Many important Colonial questions were discussed during that session, which lasted for 11 days.

COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

20. *The Court of Policy.*—The constitution of the Court of Policy underwent in 1880 an almost entire change. Mr. C. L. Bascom being the only member who retained his seat in the Court throughout the year.

21. *Official Members.*—Mr. W. F. H. Smith, Attorney-General, and Mr. W. A. G Young, C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor, and Government Secretary having left the Colony temporarily, the former on leave of absence, and the latter to assume the temporary administration of the Government of Trinidad, Mr. Nicholas Atkinson was appointed Acting Attorney-General, and Mr. C. P. Austin was appointed Acting Government Secretary, both with seats in the Court of Policy, which they occupied from the 22nd September up to the end of the year. Mr. P. H. Nind, who was appointed Auditor-General in 1879, took his seat in the Court on the 28th January 1880. The seat of the Immi-

gration Agent-General remained vacant after the death of Mr. Crosby on the 30th August.

22. *Elective Members.*—Mr. R. P. Drysdale at the close of the annual session of the Combined Court vacated his seat and was re-elected. Mr. H. K. Davson and Mr. Josias Booker resigned in consequence of departure from the Colony, and they were replaced by Mr. B. Howell Jones and Mr. Arthur Brand. Mr. Wm. Russell's seat being declared vacant by the Court, Mr. Thomas Mulligan was selected to fill the vacancy.

23. *The Financial Representatives.*—Three financial representatives were elected in 1880 to replace one who died and two who had left the Colony; and two were re-elected on the expiration of their terms of service.

24. *College of Electors.*—Two members of the College dying, and one member vacating his seat by absence from the Colony, three new members were returned to the College during the year.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

25. *Deaths.*—There were six deaths amongst public officers in 1880, viz.:—

The Hon. James Crosby, Immigration Agent-General.
James Carney, District Medical officer.
W. J. Buhôt, Resident Surgeon, Essequebo Hospital.
R. J. Lewis, Presbyterian Minister.
William Seon, Special Magistrate.
F. A. S. Lambert, Clerk, Receiver-General's Office.
J. A. Dunbar, Clerk at Georgetown Prison.

26. *Appointments.*—Mr. P. H. Nind, Auditor General of Trinidad, having been appointed Auditor-General of British Guiana in succession to the late Mr. W. B. Pollard, assumed his duties in this Colony on the 1st January 1880.

Mr. Harco T. Hora Siccama, Hydraulic Engineer, took over the duties of Colonial Civil Engineer on the 4th November, under an engagement with the Colony of limited duration, Mr. W. B. Pollard, Jun., having retired from the service from ill health.

Mr. William Calder was appointed to the new office of Special Magistrate of the Berbice River.

Mr. F. H. Stubbs, M.A., and Mr. F. Banfield, M.A., were respectively appointed to the offices of second master and assistant master at Queen's College. There were also several minor appointments made during the year.

27. *Promotions.*—The principal promotions were:—Mr. C. B. Hamilton, 2nd Clerk in the Colonial Receiver-General's office, to be Colonial Bookkeeper, in the room of Mr. W. G. Bennett, retired on pension. The Rev. W. T. Veness, Superintendent of the Orphan Asylum, to be Rector of the Parish of St. Peter, in the room of the Rev. H. G. Wickham, retired on pension, and Dr. O. D. Honiball, Supernumerary Medical Officer, to be Medical Officer of the Mara District.

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28. *Consolidation of Public Offices.*—By an Ordinance passed on the 21st August 1880, the Registrar's Office of Demerara and Essequebo and the Registrar's Office of Berbice, formerly two distinct offices, were amalgamated and are now under the Registrar of British Guiana. The Government Savings Bank in New Amsterdam, Berbice, which was formerly a distinct institution from the Government Savings Bank in Georgetown, was, by Ordinance 24 of 1880, declared a branch bank under the management and control of the Colonial Receiver General.

OFFICERS GIVING SECURITY.

29. Fifty-four officers gave security for the due discharge of their duties in sums ranging from 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* to 6,250*l.* A Public Officers' Guarantee Fund has been established by the Legislation of 1880 as already adverted to.

PENSIONS.

30. Mr. W. B. Pollard, Colonial Civil Engineer, retired on a pension after 25 years' service, on account of ill health. In recognition of the special circumstances attending his resignation the Combined Court authorised payment to Mr. Pollard of pension on a term of 30 years.

The Hon. James Crosby, Immigration Agent-General, also had five years added to his term of service for the purposes of pension, but Mr. Crosby died before the date on which the pension would otherwise have become payable.

Mr. P. A. J. Grant, Stipendiary Magistrate, and the Rev. H. G. Wickham, Rector of St. Peter's, amongst others, availed themselves of the provisions of the pension Ordinance during this year.

CONSULS.

31. The following foreign countries are represented in British Guiana:—

The United States of America: by a Consul and Vice-consul, both resident at Georgetown.

The German Empire: by a Consul, resident at Georgetown, and a Consular Agent, resident at New Amsterdam.

France: by a Vice-consul, resident at Georgetown.

Sweden and Norway, Spain, Portugal, and Venezuela, respectively, by Consuls, resident at Georgetown.

POPULATION.

32. *Estimated Population.*—The estimated population on the 31st December 1879 was 248,110, an increase of 54,619 on the population at the last census (1871).

The natural increase of the population during 1880, as represented by the excess of births over deaths, was 1,320.

The increase during the year by excess of immigration over emigration amounted to 3,624.

The population on 31st December 1880 is therefore estimated at 253,054, showing an increase of 4,494 as compared with the previous year.

33. The annexed table, compiled from the annual reports of the Registrar-General of Births and Deaths, shows the estimated population for each year since the last census, and the birth rate and death rate in each of those years:—

TABLE showing the BIRTH and DEATH RATES in BRITISH GUIANA during the last Ten Years.

Years.	Estimated Population.	No. of Births.	Rate per 1,000 persons.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 persons.
1871	193,491	7,182	37·12	7,324	37·85
1872	200,043	7,032	35·15	7,354	36·76
1873	211,011	7,558	35·81	7,245	34·33
1874	218,908	8,317	37·99	7,567	34·57
1875	222,769	8,034	36·06	7,825	35·12
1876	225,336	7,833	34·76	8,270	36·70
1877	228,880	7,585	33·14	8,677	37·91
1878	239,263	7,960	33·27	7,282	30·44
1879	248,110	9,211	37·13	6,735	27·15
1880	253,054	8,968	35·43	7,642	30·20

34. It will be observed that during the last three years there has been a diminution in the death rate. This satisfactory incident may fairly be attributed to the measures taken during the last few years for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the people. The Health Ordinance passed in 1878 makes ample provision for this purpose, but the carrying out of the numerous sanitary measures therein provided for is necessarily a matter of time.

35. The mortality amongst children is a matter for grave consideration. The death rate amongst children under 10 years of age is shown by the Registrar-General's annual reports to have been during the last 10 years about 39·17 per cent. of the mortality amongst all ages. This excess of mortality can scarcely be attributed to the climate, which, there is reason to believe, is not unfavourable to infant life. The death rate is highest amongst the children of the black and coloured races, and not, as might reasonably be expected, amongst the children of Europeans or East Indians, and is doubtless principally due to neglect and carelessness on the part of parents, the negro races being notoriously devoid of love of offspring and care for their children's welfare.

MISCELLANEOUS RETURNS.

36. *Savings Banks.*—There are three Savings Banks at present established in the Colony, and it is contemplated to extend the system by establishing a branch bank in each populous district throughout the Colony.

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37. The following statement shows the satisfactory progress of the Institution during the last 10 years :—

Years.	No. of Immigrant Depositors.	Amounts deposited.	No. of Creole and European Depositors.	Amounts deposited.	Total No. of Depositors.	Total Amount of Deposits.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1871	2,766	58,669 0 1	3,040	42,326 13 7	5,806	100,995 13 8
1872	3,443	72,641 14 1	3,530	47,216 4 3	6,973	119,857 18 4
1873	3,087	70,991 3 7½	3,419	43,848 14 11½	6,506	114,839 18 7
1874	3,028	67,739 14 11½	3,541	50,585 15 2½	6,569	118,624 10 2
1875	2,947	65,303 19 1½	3,841	53,003 4 4½	6,788	118,306 3 6
1876	3,498	85,126 16 8	3,790	47,620 0 7	7,288	132,746 17 3
1877	3,666	84,143 3 8	4,097	64,373 12 6	7,763	148,516 16 2
1878	3,861	89,624 6 0½	4,512	58,985 0 10	8,373	148,609 6 10½
1879	4,113	92,426 13 0	4,134	58,025 0 5	8,247	150,451 13 5
1880	4,169	98,934 9 8	4,939	64,549 6 9	9,108	163,483 16 5

38. *Rates of Interest.*—The rates of interest allowed to depositors were four per cent on all sums not exceeding 125*l.*, and 3½ per cent. exceeding 125*l.* up to 208*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, to which sum the deposit of any one depositor is limited.

39. *Depositors.*—Out of the total number of depositors in 1880 nearly 46 per cent were immigrants, and their deposits give an average of 23*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* per immigrant; whilst the deposits of the Creole and European depositors only give an average of 13*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* per depositor.

40. *Prosperity of Immigrants.*—Besides the sums deposited in the Government Savings Banks many of the East Indian immigrants possess jewellery and numerous heads of cattle. The value of the jewellery carried away by 1,265 adult East Indian immigrants, who in 1880 returned to India was estimated at 5,000*l.*, and the sums which they deposited with the Government for remittance to India amounted in the aggregate to 20,934*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

41. *Pauperism.*—The number of paupers who received pecuniary relief was 2,459, a decrease of 33, the number in 1879 being 2,492.

42. *Immigration.*—The number of immigrants introduced in 1880 at the expense of the Colony was less than the number introduced during the previous year by 2,007½ statute adults. This decrease was principally in immigration from Calcutta. Of those introduced 4,081½ statute adults came from Calcutta, 506 from Barbadoes, and 177 from Madeira. The average cost per statute adult Indian immigrant, was 17*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* during the season 1879–80. The cost during the previous season was 16*l.* 2*s.* 4½*d.*

43. The number of immigrants who returned to India was 1,396½ statute adults, an increase of 380 over the number who returned in 1879.

44. The increasing number of applications for back passages by immigrants whose term of indentured service had expired demanding the adoption of some means whereby the valuable labour power of which the Colony is now annually drained might be retained in the Colony, arrangements are being made under which, subject to certain regulations, it will be optional to each

immigrant entitled to a back passage to receive a free grant of land in lieu of the same. Two tracts of land situate in convenient parts of the Colony, one of 3,000 acres, the other of 500 acres, have, with this object, been surveyed and portioned off into building and cultivation lots, and some of these lots have already been taken up by immigrants.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

45. The number of churches and chapels in the Colony is returned as 207, distributed amongst the following denominations, viz.:—

Church of England - - -	65
Presbyterian - - -	39
Wesleyan - - -	38
London Missionary - -	27
Roman Catholic - - -	21
Congregationalist - - -	14
Moravians - - -	2
Lutherans - - - -	1
Total - -	207

EDUCATION.

46. *Queen's College.*—A course of instruction is pursued at this College the same as that of a public school or first grade grammar school in England. On the application by the Principal of the College to the University of Cambridge, Queen's College has this year been constituted a Colonial centre for the Cambridge local examinations. The number of students in the last term of 1880 was 58.

47. *Training Institution.*—Twenty-two students were in residence at the close of the year. All the students attended the examination for teachers' certificates held in 1880, and eight obtained certificates, 10 passed their first year's examination, and three failed.

48. *Government School at Ondermeming for Vagrants and Youthful Offenders.*—This school is established by Ordinance 5 of 1879 with the object of providing for the proper instruction of vagrant boys and youthful offenders. These latter were previously on conviction sent to the ordinary prisons. The inmates of the school are employed in agriculture and other industrial pursuits, and receive daily instruction in school for two hours. The number of inmates had increased from 13 on the 1st January 1880 to 76 on the 31st December 1880.

49. *Elementary Schools.*—The number of these schools which received Government aid during 1880 was 181, viz.:—

Primary schools - - -	158
Infant schools - - -	14
Mission schools - - -	9
	181

BRITISH GUIANA.

In the 173 schools inspected during the year by Government Inspectors there were on the registers 20,900 children. The average attendance was 10,915. There were present at inspection 16,155, of whom 10,104 were examined. As compared with last year these figures show an improvement in the attendance, the numbers for 1879 and 1880 being as follows:—

——	1879.	1880.
Average attendance - - - -	10,192	10,915
Present at inspection - - - -	14,954	16,155
Number examined - - - -	8,632	10,104
Number passed - - - - -	8,167	9,250

50. There is yet much room for improvement, for these figures disclose the fact that the results are at present exceedingly low. The average attendance in 1880 was little more than one half the number of children on the registers, and this fact alone would point to the necessity of some more stringent measures being carried into effect. It is, however, not unlikely that too stringent a measure of compulsion would defeat its own object, and would but create complications difficult to remove and not calculated to advance the cause of a thoroughly desirable and healthful educational system. The present system has been in operation for a period of four years, but it is not generally considered to be satisfactory. Amendment is called for in many quarters as the results obtained are not viewed as commensurate with the increasing sums annually expended.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

51. *Imports.* — The value of the imports in 1880 was 2,002,695*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* As compared with the imports in 1879 there was a decrease of 62,349*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* The value of the imports for each of the last five years was as follows:—

——	——	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	1,983,165 3 3	146,006 19 8	—
1877	2,229,908 4 3	246,743 1 0	—
1878	2,150,714 5 9	—	79,193 18 6
1879	2,065,045 6 9	—	85,668 19 0
1880	2,002,695 14 7	—	62,349 12 2
		392,750 0 8	227,212 9 8

Actual increase in 5 years 165,537*l.* 11*s.*

52. The falling off in the value of the imports during the last three years would appear to be attributable principally to the lower market prices prevailing during those years especially as regards American breadstuffs, &c. In 1880 there was, moreover,

a decrease of 70,017*l.* in the value of the machinery imported as compared with the previous year; and the value of the flour imported during that year was 24,582*l.* less than in 1879. Also the value of imports of dried fish was 15,891*l.*, lumber 13,718*l.*, and coals 13,439*l.*, less than in 1879. On the other hand there was an increase, in the value of wine in wood imported in 1880 of 25,488*l.*, of raw sugar 26,763*l.*, of rice 19,448*l.*, and of opium 5,003*l.*

53. *Exports.* — The exports in 1880 were valued at 2,617,624*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* showing a decrease as compared with the previous year of 97,910*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* The value of the exports for each of the last five years was as follows:—

		Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876	3,031,069 5 2½	693,947 13 8½	—
1877	3,049,157 5 3	18,088 0 0½	—
1878	2,507,571 14 0½	—	541,585 11 2½
1879	2,715,535 3 9	207,963 9 8½	—
1880	2,617,624 12 10	—	97.910 10 11
		919,999 3 5½	639,496 2 1½

Actual increase in 5 years 280,503*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*

54. In the comparison of the value of the exports of 1880, with those of 1879, the following are the principal items of decrease in 1880, viz., rum 119,815*l.*, sugar 11,774*l.*, cocoa (re-export) 7,327*l.* The principal items of increase were as follows; timber 7,677*l.*, non-enumerated 10,437*l.*, rice (re-export) 26,899*l.*

55. The following is a statement of the articles of Colonial produce, their quantity and value, exported in 1880.

Articles.	Quantity.	Sterling.
		£ s
Balata - - - - lbs.	46,606	2,401 0 3
Coffee - - - - lbs.	5,398	176 12 6
Cocoa-nuts - - - - No.	1,198,958	3,746 14 10½
Charcoal - - - - brls.	43,281	5,410 2 6
Corn and pulse - - - brls.	161	36 0 0
Cattle - - - - No.	811	3,675 9 2
Donkeys - - - - No.	29	195 8 4
Firewood - - - - cords	225	103 6 0
Glue-Fish - - - - pckgs.	166	2,717 3 6
Gums - - - - pckgs.	115	1,093 19 5
Hides, - - - - No.	7,931	2,732 15 2
Matches, splints - - - gross	4,585	135 2 1
Molasses - - - - casks	17,001	74,379 7 6
Rum - - - - puns.	24,663	184,745 0 0
Shingles - - - - No.	5,565,250	3,478 5 7½
Sugar - - - - hhds.	108,537	2,080,292 10 0
Timber - - - feet	294,496	15,951 17 4
Non enumerated goods - - -	—	2,635 6 0
		2,383,906 0 3

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SHIPPING.

56. *Vessels entered.*—The number of sailing vessels entered at the ports of Georgetown and New Amsterdam during the year was 1,005, with a tonnage of 204,835. The number of steam vessels (other than the regular mail steamers) was 43, with a tonnage of 34,658. Of the vessels entered 762 were British vessels and 286 Foreign.

57. *Vessels cleared.*—The total number of vessels cleared was 1,102 with a tonnage of 277,232. Of these 41 (33,321 tons) were steam vessels.

58. The number of vessels entered in 1879 was 1,022=270,409 tons, and the number cleared was 1,037=265,924 tons, but as these figures include the mail steamers, for the purposes of comparison, there should be added to the returns for 1880 say 48 steam vessels. The figures would then stand thus :—

	Entered.	Cleared.
1879 - - -	1,022	1,037
1880 - - -	1,096	1,150

AGRICULTURE.

59. *Cultivated Lands.*—The acreage of cultivated lands in the Colony is estimated to be as follows :—

	Acres.
Occupied by sugar plantations - -	76,930
In plantain and other cultivation, cattle farms, villages, &c., &c. - - - -	65,000
	141,930

Of the lands occupied by sugar plantations, 74,965 acres were returned as being in cane cultivation and the remainder in plantain cultivation.

60. *Uncultivated Lands.*—The uncultivated lands of the Colony were estimated at more than 46,358,070 acres. As the boundaries of the Colony are still undefined it is not practicable to give more than an approximate acreage, and the above figures may be taken to be very much within the actual acreage, of the uncultivated lands, 64,951 acres of uncultivated lands were held by sugar estates, the remaining acres being ungranted Crown lands, lands held under licenses of occupancy, and abandoned estates.

61. *Rate of Wages.*—The average rate of wages for labour remained unaltered in 1880. The ordinary agricultural labourer can earn on sugar estates from 1*s.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* per diem. Tradesmen from 3*s.* 4*d.* to 8*s.* 4*d.* per diem, and domestics in town or country, females from $5 to $12, and males from $8 to $20 per mensem.

62. *Demand for Labour.*—There is still a demand for agricultural labourers as is shown by the introduction of East Indian immigrants at the high rate of 17*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* per statute adult, and of labourers from Barbados, under no obligation as to labouring on an estate, at 2*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* per adult.

63. *Prices of Articles of use for Consumption.*—There was little or no variation in these prices in 1880. Rice, one of the principal articles of food of the East Indian immigrant, could be obtained at 3*d.* per pound. Salt-fish at 4*d.* per pound. Yams at 2*d.* per pound. These two latter articles and plantains are the principal food of the Creole labourer. The price of plantains varies according to the crops.

64. *Prices of Produce.*—The prices of the staple products of the Colony in 1880 were as follows:—

Vacuum pan sugar, say 20*l.* per hogshead, weighing 18 cwt.; Muscovado pan sugar, say 14*l.* per hogshead, weighing 18 cwt.; rum, 7*l.* 10*s.* per puncheon of 100 gallons; molasses, vacuum pan, 3*l.* 10*s.* per puncheon of 100 gallons; molasses, muscovado 5*l.* per puncheon of 100 gallons; timber, 7*d.* to 11*d.* per cubic foot; Wallaba shingles, 12*s.* to 16*s.* per thousand; Charcoal, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per barrel; Cocoanuts, 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per thousand.

With the exception of the price of cocoanuts, which fell from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* per thousand in 1879 to 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* in 1880, the prices of produce exhibit only the ordinary fluctuation in 1880.

65. *Improvements in Agriculture and Manufactures.*—A stimulus was given to the cultivation of cocoa in this Colony by the high prices recently prevailing for that article of product, and it is satisfactory to record that this industry is still receiving attention. The cultivation of rice which received attention in this Colony so far back as 1853 is again being carried on, now principally by East Indian immigrants; and when it is borne in mind that upwards of 42,000,000 lbs. of this article were imported into the Colony in 1880 it will be seen how desirable it is in the interest of the Colony that this industry should be encouraged, as the article can, undoubtedly, eventually be more cheaply produced in this Colony than imported.

GRANTS OF LAND.

66. In 1880 15 licenses of occupancy and 25 wood cutting licenses were issued, as compared with one license of occupancy and nine wood cutting licenses issued in the previous year. 12 of the licenses were for tracts of land of 100 acres or under, 25 for tracts of land above 100 acres but not exceeding 500 acres and three for tracts of more than 500 acres each. The total number of acres granted was 8,780 acres.

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CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

67. *Police Reports.*—The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates shows an increase of 1,760 as compared with the previous year, the reports in 1879 being 11,659, and in 1880 13,419. This latter number however when compared with previous years is not excessive and is 1,619 below the average number of similar reports for the last four years.

68. *Apprehensions and Summonses.*—The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 28,217, an increase of 232 over 1879. The cases were disposed of as follows:—

	Per-centage of cases.
Convicted - - - -	49·09
Discharged - - - -	30·55
Acquitted - - - -	18·56
Sent on to superior courts - -	1·78

69. *Convictions.*—There was an increase in the summary convictions of prædial larceny of 234, representing an increase of 123 per cent. of convictions for this offence. The actual cause of this great increase is apparently from the severer penalty of the law not having been so frequently resorted to in the punishment of the offenders. The law provides for the punishment for prædial larceny by whipping, and this has proved a most deterrent punishment, but in 1880 there was a marked decrease in the number of cases in which this punishment was inflicted. The comparison for 1879 and 1880 is as follows:—

Years	No. of Offences.	Per-centage punished by Whipping.
1879	189	16
1880	423	4

70. *Convictions.*—The total number of summary convictions was 13,854, showing a decrease of 75 in 1880. The convictions in the superior courts were 321, a decrease of 82. There were 19 trials for murder (one being for child murder), as compared with 26 in 1879. Of these cases 17 ended in convictions. There were 20 convictions of manslaughter as compared with 22 in 1879.

71. *Acquittals.*—The acquittals in the magistrates' courts (13,860) and in the superior courts (195) were together 14,055, an increase of 279 over the acquittals in 1879.

72. The population of the Colony being roughly estimated at 253,054, the apprehensions and summonses would be 111 per thousand of the population and the convictions 56. This per-centage is not excessive.

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

73. The total number of prisoners committed was 8,393, being an increase of 472 on the preceding year. Under the head of "penal imprisonment" there was an increase of 529 while the number committed for safe custody or for want of security shows a decrease of 56. The daily average number in prison was 1,023, as compared with 909 in 1879. The daily average on the sick list was 59·37, as compared with 47·94 in 1879. The prevailing diseases were diarrhœa and intermittent fever. There were the same number of deaths from natural causes as in 1879 viz. 20 ; also two from suicide. The number of executions were five as compared with two in 1879.

HOSPITALS.

74. There are two public hospitals n the Colony. One in Georgetown for the counties of Demerara and Essequebo, to which is attached a seamen's hospital, with a ward for persons of a better class who pay for their treatment at a fixed rate, and one at New Amsterdam for the county of Berbice.

75. *Georgetown Hospital.*—Including the inmates at the commencement of the year, the number of admissions at the Georgetown Hospital is returned at 6,167, as compared with 6,725 in the previous year. But as these figures include admissions of relatives of patients, also the births at the hospital during the year, to arrive at the actual number of patients treated there must be deducted in 1880 345 admissions, and in 1879 339 admissions. The number of patients treated in 1880 will therefore be 5,828, a decrease of 552 as compared with the number treated in 1879.

76. The number of deaths was 806 in 1880, as compared with 718 in 1879. Of the deaths 50 cases were taken to the hospital in a moribund condition, and deducting these, the mortality in 1880 was at the rate of 13 · 83 per cent. of the patients treated. This large per-centage of deaths is attributed by the Surgeon-General to the fact that many cases are admitted in the last stage of disease, when there is scarcely any hope of recovery or even of temporary improvement. In 78 cases the patients died within 24 hours after admission.

77. *New Amsterdam Hospital.*—There were 1,494 patients in the hospital at New Amsterdam, as against 1,354 treated in 1879, showing an increase of 140. The deaths were 251, but of these 65 cases were moribund on admission and one was a stillborn. Deducting those the death rate was 12·38 per cent. of the patients treated.

78. *Outdoor Patients.*—The outdoor patients relieved gratuitously at the Georgetown Hospital in 1880 numbered 15,730, and at the New Amsterdam Hospital 6,670.

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79. *Causes of Diseases.*—As to the causes of the diseases prevailing in 1880, the Surgeon-General in his Annual Report to the Government says, "I am sorry to say there is no improve-" ment with regard to the nature or frequency of the cases " admitted during the year. The principal causes of the diseases " which prevailed are as I have before stated due principally to " want of proper food, both in quality and quantity. This want " added to unhealthy abodes is apparent to anyone."

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

80. *Admissions.*—The number of admissions to the lunatic asylum was 101, as compared with 91 admissions in the preceding year. The daily average number in the asylum was 323·6. The cases were classified as follows:—

Quiet chronic - - - - -	58·31
Maniacal - - - - -	27·80
Idiotic, paralytic, epileptic - - -	10·27
Melancholy acute - - - -	3·62

The following is a table of the admissions for the last five years:—

Natives of	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	Total.
British Guiana - -	33	41	27	28	32	161
India - - -	37	36	35	34	42	184
Madeira - -	6	7	4	6	7	30
China - - -	5	4	5	1	3	18
Africa - - -	9	10	8	6	6	39
Barbados - -	12	10	11	10	5	48
Other West Indian Islands	1	3	3	1	4	12
Europe - - -	1	1	0	3	2	7
Unknown - -	1	0	2	2	0	5
Total - -	105	112	95	91	101	504

It will be seen from the foregoing table that out of 504 admissions in five years, 161 only were natives of British Guiana 331 being immigrants. This may be partly accounted for by the fact that amongst the immigrants a greater proportion of the insane come under asylum treatment, whilst among the natives of the Colony many cases are cared for by relatives and do not enter the asylum.

81. *Discharges.*—The number discharged in 1880 as cured was 20, being an excess of eight over the number discharged in 1879. The per-centage of discharges to admissions was in 1879 13·1, and in 1880, 17·8.

82. *Deaths.*—Fifty-six patients died in 1880 as compared with 39 in 1879. The per-centage of mortality to the total number under treatment was in 1880, 13·75, and in 1879, 10·92. The

principal cause of death in 1880 was "Bright's Disease." One patient was drowned and one was accidentally suffocated.

83. *Cost of the Institution.*—The total expenditure in 1880 on account of the institution was 5,067*l.* 10*s.*, equal to a weekly charge of 6*s.* per patient, and the highly satisfactory condition of the institution at so moderate an expenditure reflects credit on Dr. Grieve, the Medical Superintendent, to whose energy and zeal the present improved state of the asylum is chiefly due.

LEPER ASYLUMS.

84. *Mahaica.*—The number of inmates in the Mahaica Asylum on the 31st December 1880 was 130 males, an increase of six over the number in the asylum on 31st December 1879. In 1880 there were 81 admissions of males (17 being re-admissions) and 30 deaths, as compared with 42 admissions (31 males and 11 females) and 28 deaths in 1879. The female lepers about 50 in number were during the year accommodated at the Georgetown Hospital, pending the erection of an asylum exclusively for females.

85. *Kaow Island Asylum.*—At the Kaow Island Asylum there were 45 males as compared with 58 in 1879, showing a decrease in the number of inmates at that asylum of 13. The number of deaths at the asylum was 11, one being a case of suicide.

CHARITABLE AND LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.

86. Of the 15 charitable and literary institutions in the Colony eight are in Georgetown, viz., a public hospital, a public almshouse, a Government orphan asylum, a private orphan asylum (Roman Catholic), a sailor's mission and home, the Saffon Endowed Orphan School, the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society's Reading Room and Museum, and the Athenæum. Four of the institutions are in New Amsterdam. A public hospital, a lunatic asylum, an almshouse, and the Berbice Reading Rooms. The hospitals, almshouses, Government Orphan Asylum, leper asylums, and the lunatic asylum, are entirely supported from the public revenues. The Saffon Orphan School is supported by private endowment. The other institutions are all encouraged by Government, most of them receiving aid from the public revenue.

GENERAL REMARKS.

87. The general health of the Colony has been good, and although some of the neighbouring Islands were during 1880 visited by epidemics, British Guiana was altogether free from such visitations. The following are the results of meteorological observations taken at the city of Georgetown in 1880.

BRITISH GUIANA.

TABLE of OBSERVATIONS of the TEMPERATURE and RAINFALL at the City of Georgetown, Demerara, during the Year 1880.

1880.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Average.	Hygrometer.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Average.	Hygrometer.	Barometer.	Rainfall.
	6 a.m.	6 a.m.	6 a.m.	6 a.m.	12 Noon.	12 Noon.	12 Noon.	12 Noon.	24 Hours.	Inches.
January -	81·2	75·1	77·8	75·0	84·2	75·7	81·5	76·0	29·99	12·19
February-	81·2	74·5	76·7	73·7	83·2	75·0	81·5	75·4	30·5	13·78
March -	81·5	74·5	77·0	74·0	84·5	75·2	81·6	75·6	30·6	8·75
April -	81·4	75·7	76·0	75·2	85·6	76·2	83·8	76·5	30·02	1·57
May -	81·4	76·2	78·5	74·0	84·8	76·1	83·0	77·0	30·90	11·68
June -	81·0	75·0	78·0	75·2	85·4	75·8	83·6	76·7	30·12	10·55
July -	81·3	75·9	78·7	75·5	83·4	76·2	84·3	76·4	30·12	2·81
August -	80·74	75·41	77·87	75·22	87·61	76·16	84·0	76·96	30·03	4·31
September	81·96	76·80	79·40	75·20	88·26	76·96	85·63	76·83	30·10	0·55
October -	81·16	76·38	79·22	76·0	87·29	76·38	84·45	76·29	30·07	3·29
November	80·1	75·0	77·2	74·5	85·1	74·7	82·1	75·1	30·05	9·30
December	79·50	74·80	80·10	73·80	83·93	75·19	82·0	75·06	31·0	1·05

88. No serious breaches of the peace occurred, and on the whole tranquillity and contentment prevailed throughout the Colony during the year.

89. In conclusion it may be remarked that the Blue Book statistics on the whole indicate the advancement and prosperity of the Colony. The measures taken during the last few years for affording greater postal and telegraph facilities throughout the Colony, establishing additional steam communication along its coasts and up its rivers, the formation of a Colonial Botanic Garden, and the establishment of bi-annual local exhibitions, all tend to the development of the internal resources of the Colony. There is therefore every reason to warrant the hope that the prosperity of British Guiana is surely and steadily advancing

(Signed) F. W. COLLIER,
Acting Assistant Government Secretary.

Government Secretary's Office,
British Guiana,
21st May 1880.

TRINIDAD.

No. 6.

Governor Sir S. FREELING, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Trinidad, September 8th, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1880.

2. *Taxes, Duties, &c.*

The new import tariff levied, under Ordinance No. 19 of 1879, came into operation on the 1st January 1880. By this tariff the equalisation of the whole of the ad valorem duties at 4 per cent. was effected, all drawbacks being abolished, the duties on haberdashery and silks being reduced by 6 per cent. and the ad valorem rate fixed at 4 per cent. instead of $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The rating of wines in bottle was also assimilated to the rating of wines in wood, and corn, butter, lard, and matches were added to the articles on which drawback on re-exportation might be allowed, tobacco, on the other hand, being struck out. The result has proved that the revenue has not suffered by the change in the tariff, while it has undoubtedly simplified the process of collecting the revenue and afforded greater facilities to trade. Ad valorem duties:—

	£
1879 - - - -	16,394
1880 - - -	16,335

Total Customs revenue:—

	£
1879 - - - -	147,085
1880 - - - -	150,766

The export duty on sugar was reduced from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* per hhd., and corresponding reductions were made on sugar shipped in other packages, molasses, rum, cocoa, and coffee.

All export duties, with the exception of an export duty on pitch, asphalt, and petroleum, originally raised for the benefit of the ward in which it is procured, but now merged in the general revenue, are raised on account of expenditure for immigration purposes only.

3. *Licenses.*

The rates of licenses were increased in San Fernando and the county districts, under Ordinance No. 20 of 1879, from 60*l.* to 100*l.* and from 25*l.* to 30*l.* respectively, with the object of discouraging the undue multiplication of rum shops.

4. *Fees.*

The fees heretofore payable to the Secretary to the Intendant under the Wardens Ordinances were dispensed with by the operation of the Public Land Charges Ordinance, No. 19 of 1879, under which a system of fixed per-centages, augmenting according to the time for which ward rates remain in arrear, has been established.

The fees formerly payable under the Ordinance for the registration of deeds to the Surveyor General were abolished by Ordinance No. 10 of 1880, which regulates the fees to be paid to the Registrar General in respect of the indices originally kept by the Secretary to the Intendant, but now removed to the office of the Registrar General.

The fees of court on all matters commenced since the Judicature Ordinance No. 28 of 1879 came into operation, on the 20th March 1880, were changed in accordance with the schedule framed under that Ordinance, but there still remain and will remain for an indefinite period a large number of cases entered under the schedule framed under the old form of procedure, and under these circumstances the schedules of fees payable under both systems appear in the Blue Book.

5. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue of 1880, 435,789*l.*, exceeded that of 1879 by 10,695*l.* and that of 1878 by 89,000*l.*, the chief increases on the former year being on rum duty, land revenue, customs, reimbursements in aid, and railway, viz.:

	£
Rum duty - - - -	6,812
Land sales - - - -	4,419
Customs - - - -	3,681
Reimbursements in aid - -	4,375
Railway - - - -	8,663

The expenditure of 1880 amounted to 458,640*l.*, or 22,851*l.* above the revenue and 82,654*l.* in excess of that for 1879.

The principal items of this large excess are:—

	£
Immigration - - -	23,944
Railway working expenses - -	3,296
Public works - - -	33,625
Purchase of St. Clair and other property - - - -	11,096 450

Appended is a table of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past ten years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1870 - - - -	233,585	241,148
1871 - - - -	272,094	242,121
1872 - - - -	296,060	285,384
1873 - - - -	281,570	326,282
1874 - - - -	384,672	372,468
1875 - - - -	341,619	352,488
1876 - - - -	316,170	318,362
1877 - - - -	310,337	312,586
1878 - - - -	346,997	405,190
1879 - - - -	425,094	375,986
1880 - - - -	435,789	458,640

6. *Local Revenues.*

The revenue of the Borough of Port of Spain for the twelve months ended 31st August 1880 was 16,160*l.*, the expenditure being 17,703*l.*, or 1,543*l.* in excess of the revenue, which was defrayed out of the balance in hand on 31st August 1879. Of this expenditure, sums of 2,707 were devoted to the improvement and relaying of the gutters which run parallel to and intersect the streets, and 474*l.* to town improvement generally, while 5,132*l.* was expended on lighting, repairs, and scavenging. The revenue of the Borough of San Fernando amounted to 3,352*l.*, and the expenditure to 4,613*l.*, or an excess of expenditure over revenue of 1,261*l.*, which was defrayed out of the cash balance of the previous year. Annexed are tables showing the revenue and expenditure of the two boroughs for the last three years.

Port of Spain.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1878 - - - -	12,569	12,199
1879 - - - -	12,972	13,348
1880 - - - -	16,160	17,703

San Fernando.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1878 - - - -	4,817	3,786
1879 - - - -	3,095	3,782
1880 - - - -	3,352	4,613

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7. *Public Debt.*

A loan of 150,000*l.* was raised during the year, under the authority of Ordinance of 1880, for the construction of the Couva and San Fernando extensions of the Government railway. The greater part of this sum, however, having already been advanced from general revenue, the further sum of 100,000*l.*, authorised under the same Ordinance, has also been raised during the year 1881. The total debt of the Colony on the 31st December 1880 amounted to 407,370*l.*, but of this amount no less a sum than 390,520*l.* is a liability on account of the cost of the construction of railways, against which the Government possesses the railways as an asset, and moreover what will prove to be a source of no inconsiderable revenue in the future. The total debt of the Colony, exclusive of sums borrowed for purposes of railway construction, amounted to 16,850*l.* only.

8. *Roads and Bridges, and Works and Buildings.*

In the northern division the metalled roads were maintained in good order, and the natural soil roads in as good order as the weather would permit. There was but little done during the year as regards road extension and improvement, and only one new bridge was built.

In the southern division the metalled roads were maintained in good repair, and considerable progress was made in the extension of the metalled roads. Among others, the completion of the metalling of the main road between San Fernando and Couva was effected, thus establishing a good road, passable in all weather, between these important centres of cultivation in the room of the old natural soil road, impassable for wheeled traffic during the heavy rains.

The new Custom House and the rebuilding of the Surgeon General's Office were the principal buildings completed. The waterworks at San Fernando were, however, in course of construction, and a large number of minor additions to public buildings and repairs were made good.

9. *Railways.*

On the 1st March 1880 the Couva Extension of the Government railway, a distance of 17½ miles, was opened for traffic, and a further section of 4½ miles between Couva and Claxton's Bay was opened on the 1st January 1881. This line forms more than the first half of the extension of the railway, which by the end of the year it is hoped will connect San Fernando with Port of Spain.

The following table shows the working and rapid progress of the Government railways since the lines were opened on 31st August 1876.

Year.	Receipts from Coaching.	Receipts from Goods.	No. of Passengers carried.	Working Expenses.	Revenue.
	£	£		£	£
1876 - -	6,049	1,621	135,006	5,378	2,292
1877 - -	12,680	5,425	321,503	11,640	6,425
1878 - -	13,863	8,172	396,578	12,421	9,614
1879 - -	16,459	8,556	453,470	13,925	11,089
1880 - -	24,708	11,051	627,416	24,034	11,724

The expenditure on railway construction up to the 31st December 1880 including sums spent on the unfinished section of the San Fernando Extension, amounted to 427,600*l.* The total loan authorised for the completion of the lines is half a million sterling.

10. *Legislation.*

Nineteen Ordinances were passed during the year, none of which call for special notice. I append a list of their titles below.

No. 1.—To effect an exchange of certain Lands.

No. 2.—To amend the Law as to Gunpowder and other Explosive Substances.

No. 3.—To amend the Law as to Waterworks.

No. 4.—Concerning Weights and Measures.

No. 5.—To amend the Volunteer Ordinance 1879.

No. 6.—To amend the Law as to the Administration of justice by Stipendiary Justices of the Peace.

No. 7.—To amend the Law as to the Notifications and Reports made by Persons subject to the supervision of the Police and by Convicts at large under Licenses.

No. 8.—To authorize the raising of a Loan of 250,000*l.* sterling for the construction of railways.

No. 9.—To provide for the Payment of Compensation in respect of the loss of Registered Letters in certain cases.

No. 10.—To amend the Law as to the Registration of Assurances.

No. 11.—Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance for 1879.

No. 12.—For taking the Census of the Colony for the year 1881.

No. 13.—For the Regulation of Harbours, and for other purposes.

No. 14.—To amend the Law relating to Customs.

No. 15.—To amend the Law as to Imprisonment for Debt.

No. 16.—To provide for the Appointment of additional Constables.

No. 17.—To provide against the Adulteration of Food and Drugs.

No. 18.—Appropriation Ordinance 1881.

No. 19.—For raising Funds in aid of Immigration for the year 1881.

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11. *Legislative Council.*

There were sixteen meetings during the year. Mr. A. Bernard resigned his seat as an unofficial member, in which capacity he had rendered valuable services to the Colony. Mr. H. A. Fitt sat in the Council as acting Receiver General for five months.

12. *Civil Establishment.*

Sir Henry Irving left the Colony on the 27th July, when the Government was administered by Mr. W. R. Pyne, as Acting Colonial Secretary, pending the arrival of Mr. W. A. G. Young, C.M.G., Government Secretary of British Guiana, who administered the Government until my arrival on the 2nd November.

The following further changes and appointments took place in the year:

Mr. B. H. Reinecker to be Auditor General on the appointment of Mr. P. H. Nind as Auditor General at Demerara.

Mr. J. L. O'Connor to be Acting Warden of Tacarigua on the death of Mr. J. M. Farfan.

Mr. F. H. Hamblin to be Stipendiary Justice of the Peace for the eastern district of the county of St. George.

Mr. R. F. Needham to be Stipendiary Justice of the Peace for the county of Caroni in the room of Mr. Hamblin.

Mr. C. Huggins, Stipendiary Justice of the Peace for Cedros, died in November, and Mr. A. C. Newman has since been appointed as his successor.

Mr. C. E. Mercier to be Sub-receiver and Harbour Master at San Fernando in the room of Mr. C. C. Knollys, appointed Auditor General of Barbadoes.

Mr. G. F. Bushe to be Assistant to the Sub-intendant and Commissioner of the Northern Province.

Dr. Rolph Lesslie and Dr. R. Macnamara to be Supernumerary Government Medical Officers.

13. *Pensions.*

There is no special pension law in this Colony.

During the year nine pensions, amounting to a gross sum of 647*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* per annum, were granted in accordance with the principles followed by the Imperial Government in like cases, and the pension list was relieved by deaths to the extent of 316*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* The total amount paid for pensions was 6,322*l.*, as against 5,555*l.* in the preceding year and 4,639*l.* in 1878.

14. *Population.*

The population, as ascertained by the census taken on the 4th April 1881, was 153,000, or an increase on the census of 1871 of 43,490 souls, or 40 per cent., while the census of 1871 showed an increase in the population over that of 1861 of 30 per cent. The births during 1880 were 5,346, the deaths 4,010, which, computing the population of the Colony at the numbers ascertained by the census of 1881, shows a birth rate of 34·90 per thousand and a death rate of 26·20 per thousand.

The population of Trinidad numbers only 86 per square mile, taking the whole area of the Colony, but it is most unevenly distributed, as there still remain at least 793,403 acres of unalienated and unoccupied Crown lands. The vaccination returns show that 4,641 successful vaccinations were effected during the year.

15. *Savings Bank.*

There were 2,573 depositors in the Government Savings Banks of the Colony, of which there are only at present two branches, one at the Treasury of Port of Spain and the other at the Sub-Treasury at San Fernando. The value of the deposits amounted on the 31st December to 68,801*l.* The savings bank system is too limited, and capable of considerable extension with benefit to a large section of the community. A committee, composed of certain able local gentlemen, is now engaged upon considering the best means of effecting an enlargement of the sphere of usefulness of this institution.

16. *Education.*

The report of the Inspector of Schools on the progress of public instruction in Trinidad during 1880 shows satisfactory results. The number of schools under inspection was 100, the number of scholars on the rolls 9,638, the average attendance 5,934, showing an increase on the results of the previous year of 12 in the number of schools inspected, of 2,311 in the number of scholars enrolled, and of 1,347 in the average attendance. The subjoined table exhibits the progress made in education since the year 1868.

Year.	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.	Average Attendance.
1868 - -	35	2,836	1,333
1878 - -	86	6,290	4,238
1879 - -	89	7,327	4,587
1880 - -	100	9,638	5,934

There is a total of 256 persons engaged in teaching in the elementary schools of the Colony.

The schools are divided into two classes, Government schools and assisted schools, or schools established under private management and supported by a system of grants in aid based on results. Of the former class there are 54, with an average attendance of 3,043; of the latter 45, with an average attendance of 2,788. The number of students in residence at the normal school, or school for the training of teachers, was 19. The number of teachers who presented themselves at the annual examination for teachers was 26 males and 5 females, of whom 13 passed.

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The following table shows the school fees collected during the last five years :—

	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£	£	£	£	£
Government Schools (paid into the Treasury) -	1,274	1,267	1,421	1,590	1,790
Assisted Schools (retained by Managers) - -	646	701	811	911	1,073

In the First Grade Schools the average attendance at the Queen's Collegiate School was 76, and that at the College of the Immaculate Conception 120.

At the Cambridge Local Examinations of 1880 three students of the Royal College passed in the senior division, one of whom obtained first-class honours, and three passed in the junior division, one in third-class honours. These results, however, are below the average, owing partly to the manner in which marks were, unexpectedly by the Principal, not given in certain subjects taken up by the boys.

From the College of the Immaculate Conception, ten competing, one of the students took one of the Island scholarships of 150*l.* per annum, tenable at one of the Universities in Great Britain or Ireland for three years, and three other students received certificates as having passed the examination. Amongst the juniors one passed with second-class honours, three with third-class honours, and one passed.

The annual expenditure on education in this Colony, exclusive of school fees paid into the Treasury on the one hand, and the expenses incurred by Government in connexion with repairs, building, or hiring of schools on the other, amounts to 17,124*l.*

17. *Imports and Exports.*

The following tables show the respective values of the imports and exports of the Colony, the course of trade, and the quantities and values of the principal staples of the Colony exported during the past ten years. In this period it will be seen that the value of the imports has doubled itself, and the value of the exports all but doubled itself.

Year.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
	£	£
1870 - - -	1,042,678	1,176,172
1871 - - -	1,218,024	1,497,337
1872 - - -	1,233,771	1,439,904
1873 - - -	1,324,432	1,733,615
1874 - - -	1,342,992	1,412,260
1875 - - -	1,507,794	1,625,082
1876 - - -	1,666,268	1,636,618
1877 - - -	1,708,457	2,093,650
1878 - - -	1,901,401	1,839,067
1879 - - -	2,223,271	2,264,744
1880 - - -	2,382,632	2,185,512

II.—VALUE OF IMPORTS.

Year.	From United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£
1870 - -	448,309	189,115	405,253
1871 - -	535,542	219,199	463,282
1872 - -	639,739	209,862	384,169
1873 - -	562,318	245,134	516,980
1874 - -	488,619	240,193	614,180
1875 - -	531,611	236,291	739,892
1876 - -	571,720	251,022	843,526
1877 - -	492,769	289,927	925,761
1878 - -	643,543	301,808	956,050
1879 - -	773,849	331,367	1,118,054
1880 - -	830,799	285,814	1,266,019

III.—VALUE OF EXPORTS.

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£
1870 - -	931,255	63,521	181,394
1871 - -	1,217,154	38,199	237,457
1872 - -	1,125,313	34,484	280,107
1873 - -	1,380,229	44,401	308,985
1874 - -	980,500	36,729	395,031
1875 - -	1,220,446	37,105	367,531
1876 - -	1,248,367	48,682	339,569
1877 - -	1,416,592	51,148	625,910
1878 - -	1,246,567	43,191	549,309
1879 - -	1,460,621	47,255	756,867
1880 - -	1,163,791	77,621	944,099

IV.—QUANTITIES AND VALUE OF PRINCIPAL STAPLES EXPORTED.

Year.	Sugar.		Cocoa.		Molasses.		Rum.		Asphalt.	
	Tons.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Galls.	Value.	Galls.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£
1870	40,952	718,555	7,470,028	168,826	1,459,249	36,551	6,219	710	6,029	11,047
1871	53,591	938,000	6,890,938	172,873	2,159,205	53,980	36,341	4,088	3,271	3,712
1872	46,023	817,434	7,182,404	193,614	1,716,930	42,923	25,531	3,300	13,580	16,766
1873	59,593	973,774	9,238,141	212,716	1,624,998	37,235	22,300	2,669	7,848	10,650
1874	44,526	668,831	11,191,431	213,077	1,697,131	42,428	39,761	4,970	9,728	15,798
1875	57,983	811,676	7,638,790	159,602	2,423,049	70,672	58,068	5,787	14,864	27,080
1876	51,325	658,696	10,742,123	259,480	2,004,508	50,112	18,167	2,570	15,274	23,071
1877	45,854	924,417	11,133,303	281,252	1,464,472	48,810	—	—	12,717	20,253
1878	52,047	729,679	10,902,983	336,074	2,184,918	54,626	7,244	1,087	16,190	20,022
1879	66,818	832,533	13,376,269	490,490	1,777,540	39,321	81,454	8,359	23,560	25,938
1880	53,384	858,081	11,715,393	321,906	1,509,226	44,357	28,793	2,510	22,927	25,313

18. *Shipping.*

The number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the year 1880 were respectively 2,710 and 440,109, and 2,628 and 437,502, viz. :—

Entered.

Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.	
No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
2,462	147,265	248	292,844

Cleared.

Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.	
No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
2,379	142,991	249	294,511

Eighteen steamers per month now call regularly at Trinidad.

19. *Grants of Land.*

There were 7,911 acres of Crown land granted and sold during the year. The principal sales were made in the ward unions of Arima, Naparima, and Tacarigua, and wards of Montserrat and Chaguanas; 793,043 acres of land still remain unalienated from the Crown. The appended table of the sales for the last ten years, inclusive of land granted to immigrants in lieu of return passages, shows that 83,085 acres have been alienated during that period.

Year.	Acres.
1870 - - -	7,846
1871 - - -	6,150
1872 - - -	6,887
1873 - - -	8,861
1874 - - -	10,491
1875 - - -	10,131
1876 - - -	7,997
1877 - - -	4,317
1878 - - -	2,793
1879 - - -	9,701
1880 - - -	7,901
Total - -	83,075

20. *Gaols and Prisoners.*

The number of committals during 1880 was 3,936 over the number of those for 1879. The proportion of convictions for serious offences was 242, as against 2,844 for slighter offences. The principal offences showing increases over those for 1879 arise under the heads riot, breach of indenture, immigrants without pass, and larceny.

The adjudication in the superior and inferior courts stood thus for the year :—

	Convicted.	Acquitted.
In superior courts - - -	90	34
In inferior courts - - -	8,573	3,069
Total - - - -	8,663	3,103

showing an excess of convictions over acquittals of 5,560.

The Attorney-General, in his report for 1880, upon a comparison of the criminal statistics of the year with those of former years, has expressed his opinion that taken as a whole they afford evidence of some moral progress, while taking the average daily number of prisoners in gaol in 1871 and comparing its per-centage on the population then with the per-centage of the average daily number of prisoners on the population now, the figures stand at ·36 then as against ·35 now.

Furthermore, from the subjoined statistics it will be seen that Trinidad forms the birth-place of but little more than a fifth part of her criminal class.

Birth-places of Convicts.

Trinidad - - - -	690
Barbadoes - - - -	216
Grenada - - - -	144
St. Vincent - - - -	92
India - - - -	1,547
Other countries - - -	403
Total - - -	3,092

The above large number of alien criminals forms a distinct feature in the returns, and must be taken into account in considering the criminal statistics of the year.

21. *Hospitals.*

The hospitals of the Colony continue to afford increased relief to the poor, and to maintain the high position for usefulness and admirable organisation which they have obtained among kindred institutions in the West Indies.

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The system of opening district hospitals in five different localities was tried during the year with satisfactory results, and will be developed and extended as occasion requires. The expenditure on hospital relief, exclusive of the payment of the salaries of medical officers and vaccination, during the last three years has been as follows:—

	£
1878 - -	20,181
1879 - -	22,316
1880 - -	24,187

As in the case of the gaols, a large proportion of the cases treated in the Trinidad hospitals have been those of immigrants who appear to have come from the neighbouring islands for the purpose of obtaining medical relief here.

22. *Manufactures, &c.*

There was one vessel of 17 tons burden built and registered here during the year.

23. *General Remarks.*

No epidemic occurred during the year, and the health of the Colony was good, notwithstanding the heavy rainfall, which at St. Ann's was registered at 82·34 inches, or 15·95 above the average of the last 19 years.

The crops of 1880 fell far short of those of the preceding year, being in 1880 only 57,998 hhds. and 10,999,385 lbs. of cocoa, as against 69,871 hhds. of sugar and 13,376,269 lbs. of cocoa in 1879. The falling off is attributable to the extreme wet of the season referred to above, and in the case of cocoa to the over production of the year before. I regret to state that the crops of the present year are likely to be still further deficient. The coming crops, on the other hand, for 1882 promise remarkably well.

The lower orders were contented, and there was an entire absence of disturbances or discontent throughout the Island.

The progress which is being made is very evident, even to a casual observer. To myself, on returning to Trinidad, which I had not visited since the year 1872, its advancement in cultivation, population, and wealth was truly astonishing. There is no other Colony in the West Indies which can exhibit such progress in so short a time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. FREELING,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

BARBADOS.

No. 7.

Administrator HARLEY, C.B., C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Barbados, November 9, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward a joint report by the Colonial Secretary and Auditor General on the Blue Book for 1880.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) J. W. HARLEY,
The Earl of Kimberley, Administrator.
&c. &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1881.

Finance.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1. The balance on 1st January was -	17,056	5	7½
The receipts for the year were -	136,402	19	11
Total - - -	153,459	5	6½
The expenditure for the year was -	136,766	19	6½
Leaving a balance on 31st December of - - - - - -	16,692	6	0

In addition to the above, the following items of account were entered on both sides of the ledger :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bridgetown waterworks debentures -	20,736	18	9½
Worn silver coin replaced by new -	2,000	0	0
Proposed contribution to Jamaica Hurricane fund - - - -	500	0	0
Total - - -	23,236	18	9½

BARBADOS.

2. It thus appears that the expenditure exceeded the revenue by 364*l.*, which is accounted for by the following unusual expenditure incurred during the year:—

	£
Compensation to the master of the Central Schools	500
Grant to Harrison College	1,000
Grant to the city roads	1,000
Grant to the police reward fund	1,000
Redemption of water works debentures	3,828
Loan for the highways of the rural portion of St. Michael	1,000
Loan to Harrison College	1,000
Loan to St. Joseph's Vestry	1,000
Loan to St. James' Vestry	1,000
Total	10,453

3. Some unforeseen expenditure must be expected every year, but not usually to the above extent, for although 6,953*l.* of the above sum of 10,453*l.* will eventually be repaid, it is nevertheless a drain upon the current resources of the Colony. Deducting 10,453*l.* the expenditure for the year becomes 126,313*l.*, which compares favourably with the average expenditure of the three previous years, which was 122,936*l.*, when it is considered that 4,000*l.* above the average was spent on education, and 1,100*l.* cost of prison labour was included in the expenditure, an item hitherto deducted from the profits of that labour.

4. Paragraph No. 2 above shows that 6,953*l.* was lent during the year. This sum, though a charge upon the revenues of the year in question, is not spent, but may be considered as invested for the Colony. Deducting therefore the deficiency of 364*l.* mentioned in paragraph No. 2 above, we have an increase of the assets of the Colony of 6,589*l.*, or the revenue exceeded the actual expenditure during the year 1880 by the sum of 6,589*l.*

5. During the three years 1877 to 1879 the average excess of the revenue over the expenditure was 4,522*l.*, it may therefore confidently be considered that the present revenue of the Colony is sufficient to meet the present ordinary expenditure and will leave a good margin.

6. The revenue was collected during the quarters of the year as follows:—

	£
First quarter	35,650
Second quarter	36,114
Third quarter	34,181
Fourth quarter	30,456
Total	136,402

which is 8,944*l.* in excess of the average of the three previous years, and 14,285*l.* in excess of the average for the 10 previous years, which was 122,117*l.*

7. The revenue and expenditure may also be tabulated thus:—

Revenue.

—	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Revenue - -	86,992 18 5½	49,410 1 5½	136,402 19 11

Expenditure.

—	Salaries.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Expenditure - -	63,048 13 9	73,718 5 9½	136,766 19 6½

8. The total assets of the Colony on the 31st December, including the balance in the Treasury, were 32,196*l.* 14*s.* 1½*d.* There were no liabilities.

9. The excess of revenue mentioned in paragraph No. 6 above, over the average of the three previous years, may be explained as follows:—

a. Customs had an excess of 3,627*l.* This was the result of the new tariff, which may be expected to produce about the same amount in ordinary years.

b. Excise had an excess of 3,197*l.* This was caused by the Rum Act of 30th December 1879, which provided that payments of rum duty should be made monthly instead of quarterly as hitherto. By this the rum duty of October and November 1880 was paid during the year, as well as that for October and November 1879. The average amount per month for rum duty was 1,400*l.*, so that the revenue under this head was actually only about 400*l.* in excess of the average for the three previous years.

c. Port and harbour dues showed an excess over the average of 50*l.*, licences of 140*l.*, militia tax of 40*l.*, fees and fines of 500*l.*, and fees of office 200*l.*, post office of 300*l.*, and market of 170*l.* There was thus an excess, larger or smaller, under every head of revenue proper, which points to a good commercial year and care on the part of the collecting officers.

d. The remaining portion of the excess will be found under the head of "Special Receipts," 2,286*l.*, covering 1,029*l.* arrears of Imperial contribution to Contagious Diseases Hospital, 900*l.* profits of prison labour, not hitherto brought to account in the revenue, 167*l.* half fees of Provost Marshal, and some minor items.

BARBADOS.

10. Taking these figures into account, there is nothing in either the increased revenue or expenditure which is not easily explained, and the year presents itself as an ordinarily favourable year, with a revenue equal to its requirements and a good balance in the Treasury.

11. The above comparisons take an average of three years, the revenue and expenditure compare with the previous year as follows:

The revenue from customs is shown to be 10,057*l.* in excess of that for 1879, the small amount for that year was fully explained in the report for 1879 to be due to the derangement caused by the change of tariff, which unduly increased the receipts for 1878 at the expense of those for 1879. The increases in excise duty and special receipts are explained in paragraph No. 9 above, None of the other items call for special remark.

12. Expenditure shows an increase in establishments of 2,228*l.* under the following heads:—

a. Civil.—Colonial Secretary's Office 183*l.*, by the re-organisation of that office in 1879. Public Works Department 174*l.*, on account of half pay not being drawn during a portion of 1879.

b. Judicial.—412*l.*, on account of the full salaries of various magistrates and judges being drawn and undrawn, back pay being allowed.

c. Police.—592*l.*, being caused by the necessity of making a special grant to the Police Reward Fund of 1,000*l.*, while about 500*l.*, the cost of feeding lunatics kept at police stations, hitherto charged to police, was this year charged to Lunatic Asylum.

d. Prisons.—361*l.*, caused by the Act of 30th December 1879 reorganising the prison staff.

e. Education.—277*l.*, by the appointment of a professor of chemistry.

f. Public Library.—90*l.*, by the re-organisation of the staff of that institution.

g. Medical.—110*l.*, by the formation of the Poor Law Board and a slight increase in the staff of the Lunatic Asylum.

13. Under exclusive, judicial shows an increase of 205*l.*, caused by the Revising Court, which sits every third year, and an increase in inquests and contingencies, while a saving was effected by there being no Circuit Court of Appeal.

14. The increase of 1,060*l.* in prisons was caused, as explained in paragraph No. 3 above, by the cost of prison labour being brought to account, rejecting this there was a saving of 41*l.*

15. The increase of 3,858*l.* under the head of education was due to the new scheme coming into operation.

16. Lunatic asylum has an increase of 670*l.* The reason of this is that the support of lunatics confined at police stations was, before this year, charged to police.

17. The increase of 1,700*l.* to roads was caused by the grant of 1,000*l.* to the Road Commissioners of the city and by irregular drawing of the grants.

18. The saving of 1,429 for interest is on account of the Water-works Debentures being taken up.

19. The decrease of 2,408*l.* under works and buildings is chiefly owing to the extensive repairs undertaken by the Molehead Board during 1879.

Local Revenue.

20. The local revenues during the parochial year ended the 24th March 1880, not included in the above, were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance from 1879 - - -	5,756	19	0
Revenue, 1880 - - -	37,991	19	7
Total - - -	43,748	18	7
Expenditure, 1880 - - -	37,903	9	11
Balance - -	5,845	8	8

The above balances include arrears of taxes.

21. The local revenue was collected under the following heads:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Land and house taxes - - -	23,972	5	6
Road taxes - - - -	7,612	5	9
Other receipts - - -	6,407	8	4
Total - - -	37,991	19	7

22. The local disbursements were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Poor relief - - - -	14,360	4	1
Education of the poor - -	1,250	12	1
Churches, chapels, &c. - -	4,207	5	4
Salaries - - - -	2,660	17	9
Destruction of rats - - -	748	19	4
Roads - - - -	7,612	5	9
Other disbursements - - -	7,063	5	7
Total - - -	37,903	9	11

23. Besides the above sums disbursed by the parochial authorities a further amount of 13,132*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* was spent by the Government on education, and 6,550*l.* on roads. An Act has been passed abolishing the reward for the destruction of rats.

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24. The following was the amount spent in the Colony of the Imperial Government:—

	£	s.	d.
Military expenditure - - -	75,077	1	3
Salary of the Governor and his staff -	4,550	0	0
Contribution to Contagious Diseases Hospital - - - -	625	0	0
Total - -	80,252	1	3

Legislation.

25. Twenty-eight Acts were passed during the year.

26. The main feature of the Legislation of the year was the Poor Law Amendment Act, a measure intended to ensure sufficient administration of the funds devoted to relief of the poor. The original draft of this Act was founded on the recommendations of the Poor Relief Commission, appointed by Governor Freeling in 1875. Many of these recommendations, however, did not meet with the approval of the Legislature, and sweeping amendments were introduced in committee. The Act as it stands has not been found to work in an altogether satisfactory manner, and it is probable that it will have to be amended.

27. The Friendly Societies Act was passed in order to provide against misapplication of the funds of local friendly societies, and to assist in establishing these societies on a business like basis. This Act, too, will require alteration and amendment. It has not hitherto been taken advantage of by more than four of the societies.

28. The Unseaworthy Ships Act is intended to prevent vessels proceeding to sea in an unseaworthy condition. It is in the main founded on the Imperial Merchants Shipping Act of 1876, "Plimsoll's Act," the first thirteen sections of which are, with such modifications as are required by local circumstances, embodied in the Act. Provisions are also contained in the Act for applying general principles of the Act to inter-Colonial vessels. This Act was much needed, and was readily passed by the Legislature

29. The Branch Savings Bank Act was passed in order to extend to residents in the country districts the benefit of the savings bank, and thereby encourage thrift. In the course of time there is little doubt that the branch banks will be largely made use of.

30. The Emigration Allowance Act provides for the repatriation of alien paupers who have no claim on the rates. This was a much needed, and has proved a useful measure.

31. The only other measures calling for special notice are the Acts for increasing the Attorney-General's salary from 500*l.* to 750*l.* per annum, and for reducing the next Chief Justice's salary from 2,000*l.* to 1,500*l.* per annum; the Act for reorganising the Auditor General's Office, and the Act to substitute

a Colonial allowance for the rebate and remission of the duty formerly allowed to the officers and men of the military forces serving in the Island.

Civil Establishment.

32. From the departure of Sir George Strahan, K.C.M.G., on the 29th May, the Government of the Windward Islands was administered by Major-General Gamble, C.B., the officer commanding the troops in the West Indies. On the 19th August the administration of the Government was assumed by the present Governor, William Robinson, Esquire, C.M.G.

33. Mr. C. C. Knollys, the Auditor-General, assumed his duties on 10th January, as successor to Mr. William Brandford Griffith, and on the 30th March, Captain M. W. Skinner, R.E., assumed the duties of Superintendent of Public Works, as successor to Mr. J. Scott Tucker. On the 20th June the Provost Marshalship became vacant by the death of Captain Hyde; and on the 20th August Mr. H. H. Haynes was appointed Superintendent of Harbour Police as successor to Mr. C. F. A. Da Rocha. Mr. E. F. Evelyn was appointed Accountant at the Post Office in September. The offices in the Poor Law Department were filled up by the appointment of Dr. Hutson (whose office of Inspector of Hospitals had lapsed) as Poor Law Inspector, and of Mr. C. J. Lawrence as Secretary of the Poor Law Board.

Population.

34. The report of the census of 1881 will shortly be published. The population of the Island, as ascertained by that census was 171,889 on the 3rd April 1881. Calculating from the returns of baptisms and burials since 1871, the estimated population at the close of 1880 should have been 193,738.

There has therefore been a loss of 21,849, or about 2,180 per annum, due to emigration.

Gaols and Prisons.

35. Full particulars are to be found in the report of the Inspector of Prisons, which forms part of the Blue Book.

36. The prisons, with exception of 72 cells at Glendairy, are still on the associated system. A vote of 12,000*l.* has, however, been passed to provide for additional separate accommodation.

Criminal Statistics.

37. There is a slight decrease in the category of offences against the person. Prædial larceny shows a large increase, as do other offences against property. The total number of summary convictions is 1,600 less than in 1879, but more than in 1877 or 1878.

Of convictions for offences against the person in the Superior Courts, 6 were for manslaughter, and none for murder or attempt to murder.

A comparative return of cane fires is appended.

BARBADOS.

RETURN of CANE FIRES, 1st January 1876 to 30th June 1881.

Parish.	Number of Fires. Period from 1st January to 30th June 1876.	1st July 1876 to 30th June 1877.	1st July 1877 to 30th June 1878.	1st July 1878 to 30th June 1879.	1st July 1879 to 30th June 1880.	1st July 1880 to 30th June 1881.	Average for last three periods.
St. Michael	19	18	20	5	11	19	8⅓
St. Philip	9	32	33	26	47	27	33⅓
St. John	6	12	16	3	10	23	12
St. George	16	39	18	10	8	20	12⅔
Christ Church	5	21	40	16	30	25	23⅔
St. Thomas	20	11	15	4	10	14	9⅓
St. James	4	7	4	5	4	11	6⅔
St. Peter	4	10	7	4	0	6	3⅓
St. Lucy	8	13	17	5	8	21	11⅓
St. Andrew	6	13	14	—	5	5	3⅓
St. Joseph	5	8	3	7	6	10	7⅔
Total	102	184	187	85	139	181	131⅔

continued.

Parish.	Number of Acres burnt. Period from 1st January to 30th June 1876.	1st July 1876 to 30th June 1877.	1st July 1877 to 30th June 1878.	1st July 1878 to 30th June 1879.	1st July 1879 to 30th June 1880.	1st July 1880 to 30th June 1881.	Average for last three periods.
St. Michael	71	29	43¼	18¾	40	34	30 11/12
St. Philip	38¾	76½	129¼	54½	66⅓	65	61 17/18
St. John	20¼	48	92¾	7¾	37½	55¾	33⅔
St. George	60¾	92	58¾	18¼	6½	33¾	29⅓
Christ Church	11¾	35⅓	76	31½	56	52	46⅚
St. Thomas	33¼	19¾	35½	5½	19½	28	17⅔
St. James	10¼	34¾	7	7¼	7	15	9¾
St. Peter	11¼	30	20½	18¾	—	8½	9 1/12
St. Lucy	23¾	22½	43¾	8½	3	27¼	12 11/12
St. Andrew	17¾	21¾	18½	—	9¼	2¼	3⅚
St. Joseph	7¾	7¾	11	22½	9¾	8½	13 7/12
Total	306½	536¼	536¼	193¼	254⅚	330	269 19/36

Trade.

38. The trade of the year was about the average. The value of imports was a little more than the previous year, while the value of exports, owing to a slightly smaller sugar crop, was less.

39. The following table shows the value and direction of trade:—

Countries.	Imports from.	Exports to.
	£	£
United Kingdom	444,818	504,092
British North America	104,698	166,198
West Indies and British Guiana	77,787	200,159
Calcutta	31,608	—
United States	443,149	289,688
Peru	56,400	—
Other Countries	12,275	6,251
Total	1,170,735	1,166,388

40. The imports from Great Britain are chiefly linen and cottons, hardware, coal, liquors of all kinds, and rice. From the United States and North America salt fish and preserved meats, corn meal, and bread stuffs, lumber of all kinds, horses and mules, butter, kerosine oil, and tobacco. From Calcutta, almost exclusively rice, and from Peru, guano

41. The export trade may be divided as follows:—

	£
Staple (sugar, molasses, and rum)	935,545
Other produce of the Colony	12,028
Re-exports	198,815
Total	1,166,388

42. The produce and manufacture of the Colony, other than the staple, consisted of arrowroot, matches, whale and petroleum oil, and a few sheep and pigs.

Shipping.

43. The following table shows the numbers and tonnage of vessels that entered during the year:—

Countries from whence.	Number.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom	135	92,512
British North America	135	20,314
West Indies and British Guiana	695	71,617
United States	144	46,525
Other Countries	75	22,164
Total	1,184	253,132

(Signed) WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,
Barbados, Nov. 9th, 1881. Colonial Secretary.
C. C. KNOLLYS,
Auditor General.

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No. 8.

Governor Robinson, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Barbados, September 8, 1881.

Forwarded.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

(Signed) William Robinson,
Governor.

Government House, St. Vincent,
August 9, 1881.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book (1880) of St. Vincent for the information of the Right. Hon. the Secretary of State, and to offer the following remarks upon its contents for your Excellency's consideration.

Taxes, Duties, Fees.

2. No alterations were made in taxes, duties, fees, and other sources of revenue as compared with those of 1879.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

The amount of revenue collected in 1880 was 32,034*l.* against 32,203*l.* in 1879. The amount placed on the estimates was 31,353*l.*

Expenditure.

The expenditure reached 32,890*l.* as compared with 30,652*l.* in the preceding year. The estimated expenditure was 31,495*l.*

This increase can be all but accounted for under the two following heads:—

	£
Additional expenditure on education on account of increased number of scholars -	300
Increase in the expenditure on public works and buildings, and on roads - -	1,000
	1,300

Local Revenues.

The local revenues collected but not accounted for in the general revenue of the Colony were as follows:—

	£
I. From public lands - - -	228
II. From immigration, taxes, and other receipts on account of the immigration fund - - - - -	4,677
III. From waterworks, rates, &c. - -	723
IV. From town of Kingstown, rates, market fees, and miscellaneous receipts -	758
	6,386

Public Debt.

The only existing public debt amounted at the close of 1880 to 2,500*l.*, being the balance of a sum of 3,000*l.* borrowed from the Savings Bank in 1879. The Legislature is pledged to vote 500*l.* upon the estimates every year until this small loan has been extinguished, but in addition to this guarantee, an Ordinance has been passed (No. 7 of 1880) to enable the Government to raise money by the issue of debentures, for the purpose of replacing at once the amount borrowed from the Savings Bank should the necessity arise.

Legislation

24. Ordinances were passed in 1880 of which 16 received the royal assent. The most important of these enactments are—

No. 2. "The Stock Trespass Ordinance," which was passed to remedy defects in the Act it repeals, and to afford better protection to the owners of unenclosed provision grounds from the ravages of goats and pigs, which are kept in great numbers by the peasantry.

No. 5. "The Summary Offences Ordinance" consolidates and amends the law relating to offences punishable in a summary manner, and repeals the three Acts formerly on the Statute Book dealing with such offences.

No. 8. "The Bastardy Ordinance." A measure of this nature was much required in St. Vincent, as the Registration Returns shewed that on an average of five years 53·54 per cent. of the births were illegitimate, and as previously there was no law in force to compel the father of an illegitimate child to contribute towards its maintenance.

No. 14. This Ordinance consolidates the existing Supreme Court, Court of Chancery, Court of Grand Sessions of the Peace, and Court of Ordinary into one court, to be called the "Supreme Court of Judicature." It abolishes the offices of Assistant Judges and makes the Chief Justice the sole Judge of the Supreme Court. The court is not however vested with jurisdiction in Admiralty

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causes or in divorce or matrimonial causes. It fixes the times and place for holding courts, both civil and criminal, and provides for special sittings once a month (except in vacation) for the transaction of business of a civil nature not requiring a jury.

No. 15. "Supreme Court, Summary Jurisdiction," This Ordinance extends the summary jurisdiction of the Supreme Court from 20*l.* to 50*l.*, and establishes monthly sessions, excluding the vacation months. As the business of the Supreme Court consists mainly of cases involving a value not exceeding 50*l.*, this Ordinance will it is hoped be found of great value to suitors.

No. 19. "The Jury Ordinance." This Ordinance reduces to six the pre-existing right to peremptory challenge of 12 jurors in cases of felony; the number of persons in the Colony competent to serve as jurors being very limited. In criminal cases a verdict of nine jurors can be received, if after two hours the panel cannot agree to an unanimous verdict; but in capital cases the finding must be unanimous.

No. 24. "The Immigration Ordinance." This Ordinance was drawn in compliance with instructions from the Secretary of State, and consolidates all former enactments relating to emigration.

Civil Establishments.

On the 16th March, Lieutenant-Governor Dundas died, after a short illness, and was succeeded temporarily in the administration of this Government by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Edward Laborde, until relieved in July by the Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago.

Doctor Martin O'Carroll on the 1st April took up the joint duties of Police Magistrate and District Medical Officer of the Grenadines, created under Ordinance No. 18 of 1878, section 5, paragraph (*c.*)

Pensions.

There was no addition of any importance to the pension list in 1880.

Population.

According to the returns of the Registrar-General of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, there was an increase of 970 souls during the year, the birth rate was 47·33 and the death rate 33 per 1,000.

By the census just taken the population in 1881 was 40,496, but according to the registration returns during the last 10 years, the population should have numbered 42,069; the continued stream of emigration to Grenada and Trinidad noticed in my report on the Blue Book of Tobago for 1879 prevails equally in St. Vincent, and I have no hesitation in attributing the difference between these statistical returns to the exodus above referred to,

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports in 1880 was returned at 150,950*l.* in round numbers. The average of the five preceding years was 155,621*l.* The value of exports in 1880 was in round numbers 159,000*l.* against an average for the five preceding years of 177,637*l.*

Education.

The Inspector of Schools in his report upon the State-aided schools of this Colony during 1880, speaks favourably of the progress of education in St. Vincent, and in a supplementary report upon those of the Grenadines which I enabled him to inspect for the first time, Mr. Forster says that his visit "was "a very satisfactory one although it may be termed a surprise "visit" which in truth it was. The unsatisfactory state of the Government Grammar School attracted my attention very shortly after my arrival in July last, the attendance was miserably small and the public appeared to have lost all confidence in the institution. I am happy to state that the remedies which have since been applied to the then state of things are beginning to bear fruit, the number of scholars having risen from 3 or 4 in July 1880 to 13 or 14 at the present moment.

Crown Lands.

No grants of land have for very many years been made in St. Vincent with the exception of those recorded at long intervals.

The fact is that in the absence of any knowledge about the boundaries of Crown lands it would be very hazardous to make grants or sell lands, even if there was any demand for them, which there is not.

The question of ascertaining the extent of the Crown lands is, however, again under the careful consideration of this Government; but the probable cost of a general survey of the Island has been and still is the real obstacle to proceeding with the work, as it is not anticipated that the Colony would be recouped in the expenditure by the sale of Crown lands.

Criminal Statistics.

The statistical returns for 1880 as compared with the average of those of the three preceding years are as follows:

Summary Convictions, 1880.

	Average of years 1877, 1878, and 1879.
Offences against the person -	263 against 368
Offences against property -	111 „ 138

showing a considerable decrease; although under the following headings some increase will be found:

Prædial larceny - -	86 against 60
Other offences - -	684 „ 634

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The decrease in the number of convictions in the superior courts is, however, very satisfactory, the average for the last three years of convictions for offences against the person being nine, whilst there were only two cases in 1880. There was no trial for arson; but the average number of convictions was obtained in 1880 for offences against property other than prædial larceny, whilst for "other offences" the statistics for 1880 show a slight decrease.

Hospitals.

There is only one General Hospital for the whole Colony. On sugar estates where immigrants are under indenture there are rooms set apart as "Coolie Hospitals," but where immigration is conducted on such a small scale as it is in St. Vincent, I fear that these local establishments leave much to be desired. However, the General Hospital is open for the reception of such cases as in the opinion of the district medical officers cannot be properly attended to on the estates.

Although the treatment by means of iodoform has to some considerable extent reduced the number of incurable ulcer cases, there is still a very large proportion (especially amongst free immigrants) of chronic sores which have defied all attempts at a cure, and these people become to a great extent a charge upon the immigration fund, one third of which is contributed from the general revenue. The following table shows the average of the three preceding years of admissions, deaths, and those patients who remained in hospital on the 31st December in 1877, 1878, 1879.

	1877.	1878.	1879.
Total number of admissions - -	450	476	463
Total number of deaths - - -	32	34	25
Numbers remaining in hospital on 31st December - - - -	36	47	56

showing a satisfactory decrease in the number of deaths, whilst on the other hand there is a slight increase in the number of admissions.

Lunatic Asylum.

In December 1879 all the male lunatics were transferred to Grenada, because the accommodation at the fort was utterly unsuited to such patients; but the female lunatics who were and are still very comfortably housed remained in St. Vincent, so that very little reduction has been effected in the cost of the maintenance of the asylum, the fact being that the staff remained the same, with the exception of the dismissal of one (male) warder.

I am of opinion that this was a great mistake, as either the whole establishment should have been broken up, or better accommodation should have been provided for the male lunatics.

Prior to the departure of the eight male lunatics the establishment cost on an average of the three years 1877, 1878, and 1879 477*l.* per annum. In 1880 the expenditure amounted to 328*l.*, whilst for the maintenance of eight lunatics transferred to Grenada, at 31*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* a head, a further sum of 250*l.* has to be added, making 578*l.*, which raised the total amount of expenditure on account of lunatics to the present high figure.

General.

The return by the rain gauge showed a deposit in 1880 of 110 inches 92 parts, but very dry weather set in in November 1880, continuing until the end of April, causing an abnormal amount of sickness, when the rains again set in heavily in May last. The average rainfall for the five preceding years was 111 inches 19 parts, which shows that the cutting down of trees upon Crown lands, and generally throughout the Colony, for the purpose of charcoal burning, has not apparently affected the quantity of rain which falls annually in St Vincent.

The demand for immigrants from the East Indies seems to have come to an end in St. Vincent, at which I am not surprised, because it is a most expensive kind of immigration, owing chiefly to the liability of this Colony to provide back passages after a few years' indenture. If I find that there is any disposition to revive the immigration I should be inclined to call the attention of planters to the emigration which I understand has been going on for some time from the Azores to the Sandwich Islands and the Bazils, as those emigrants do not require return passages, and the passage money from St. Miguel to St. Vincent would be much less than that from India, and as the people themselves are described as a docile and industrious peasantry.

The condition of the Government House is so bad that it has been condemned and nothing was voted for its repairs in the estimates of 1880 or 1881. Plans and estimates for building a new one have been sent home for the approval of the Secretary of State, and a scheme for raising the amount (4,000*l.*) required to build a new house on the old site has also been submitted for consideration, I am of opinion that a good deal of the money could be raised in the Colony, as it would be a boon to the Colonists to get four or five per cent. payable half yearly instead of three per cent., which is the bank rate of interest on deposits.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS FREDK. GORE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency
Governor Robinson, C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 9.

The Officer Administering the GOVERNMENT of the WINDWARD ISLANDS to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Barbados, October 5, 1881.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

(Signed) J. W. HARLEY,
Administrator.

SIR, Government House, September 19, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of Grenada for the year 1880.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The available revenue for the year 1880, including that derived from special funds, amounted to 45,729*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, and the expenditure 47,191*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of 1,462*l.*

The general revenue for 1879 was 36,034*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* and that of 1880, 36,088*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, showing an increase of 54*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*

The revenue from general sources exceeded the estimated receipts by 3,004*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* This excess arose principally under the heads of "Customs," "Licenses," "Excise," "Assessed taxes," and "Revenue stamps."

I append a table showing the increases and decreases of the principal sources of revenue and expenditure in 1880 as compared with 1879.

Revenue.

—	1879.			1880.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs - - - - -	17,996	16	6	16,746	3	8
Excise - - - - -	3,277	18	4	6,333	2	2
Licenses - - - - -	2,383	12	6	2,598	6	6
Sanitary - - - - -	459	17	0	496	18	8
Assessed taxes - - - -	4,944	9	1	4,891	16	1
Rents - - - - -	324	3	9	282	1	10
Fees - - - - - -	145	16	3	108	17	6
Fines - - - - -	873	9	9	778	8	9
Post Office - - - - -	297	18	1	319	6	4
Refunds - - - - -	625	11	1	375	10	7
Escheat - - - - -	19	4	8	27	13	10
Sales - - - - -	34	9	4	156	18	6
Stamp Act - - - - -	1,909	19	6	2,254	13	5
Contribution from immigration - -	400	0	0	600	0	0
Maintenance, Lunatics St. Vincent and Tobago - - - - -	—			352	18	6
Miscellaneous - - - -	37	7	7	122	11	10
Total - - -	33,730	13	5	36,445	8	2

Expenditure.

—	1879.			1880.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Ecclesiastical - - - -	1,220	6	0	1,132	0	0
Judicial - - - - -	3,910	3	9	3,965	10	2
Civil - - - - -	4,152	18	10	5,224	19	8
Education - - - - -	1,219	16	0	1,049	18	6
Sanitary - - - - -	3,444	18	3	4,181	15	1
Poor relief - - - - -	2,620	15	0	3,057	2	5
Police - - - - -	2,769	18	9	2,956	10	11
Gaols and prisons - - - -	1,046	14	6	1,065	19	10
Works and repairs - - - -	10,957	9	8	10,508	7	0
Rates and taxes - - - -	141	4	4	140	11	4
Refunds - - - - -	46	13	8	—		
Inland post - - - - -	383	1	6	391	2	9
Telegraph - - - - -	376	4	9	393	6	9
Ice subsidy - - - - -	96	13	4	136	5	0
Hire of buildings - - - -	35	0	0	204	0	0
Escheat - - - - -	400	0	0	98	12	4
Furniture, Government House - -	96	16	9	—		
Printing and stationery - - -	368	19	11	743	1	3
Pensions and annuities - - -	372	12	10	568	15	10
Militia - - - - -	489	13	11	97	14	3
Miscellaneous - - - -	2,283	6	1	2,099	8	8
Total - - -	36,433	7	10	38,015	1	9

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year 1880 amounted to 38,060*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, being 1,414*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.* in excess of what it was the previous year. This increase is in part due to the fact that in April 1880 the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor, which had hitherto been borne by the Imperial Government, became a charge on the revenue of the Colony, the sum of 975*l.* being expended on this service.

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Colony amounted on the 31st December last to 8,000*l.*, viz., balance of loan of 10,000*l.* contracted in 1878 from the Hon. L. F. Marrast for immigration purposes, repayable in ten yearly instalments of 1,000*l.*, and loan of 1,000*l.* from John McPhail, Esq., for public works, repayable in twenty years.

Public Works.

The total amount expended on public works during the year 1880 was 10,508*l.* 7*s.* 0*d.*, of this there was expended on—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bridge over Beausejour River - -	322	7	5
Erection of railings round York House -	267	9	5
Repairs and re-arrangement of Lunatic Asylum - - - -	526	17	7

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	£	s.	d.
Tank at new gaol, and other works -	369	1	8
Repairs to Colony Hospital - -	171	3	11
Latrines Gonyare - - -	416	6	6
Market House ditto - - -	71	2	7
St. Patrick's Court House - -	189	16	4
Grenville Jetty - - - -	717	8	10
Repairs to various public buildings -	1,702	15	9

There was 6,356*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* expended on roads and bridges. Three-and-a-half miles of new roads were made, and repairs done to 149 miles. The average cost of maintaining the main roads and bridges was about 42*l.* 10*s.* per mile. There were 40 culverts constructed.

Education.

There are 29 schools in the Colony, viz., 14 Anglican, 5 Wesleyan, 10 Roman Catholic, with a total number of 4,183 scholars. The voluntary contributions amounted to 180*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, and the total cost to 927*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*

Legislative Council.

There have been no permanent changes during the year.

Civil Establishment.

The only change of importance in the civil establishment of the Colony during the year under review was the resignation of Mr. Thackwray, the Inspector of Police, and the appointment of Mr. Charles Engledon to that office.

Legislation.

During the year 1880 there were 19 Ordinances passed by the Legislature of this Colony, the more important of which were the following:—

Ordinance No. 1.—"An Ordinance to regulate the Salary of "the Police Magistrate of the Southern District."

Ordinance No. 2.—"The Prison Ordinance, 1880."

This Ordinance became necessary on the completion of the new gaol on Richmond Hill. It legalises the confinement of prisoners there.

Ordinance No. 5.—"For the incorporation and winding up of "Trading Companies and other Associations."

This introduces into the Colony the provisions of the Imperial Statutes on the same subject.

Ordinances Nos. 7 and 8.—"Lieutenant-Governor's Salary "Ordinance," and the "Governor's duty exemption Ordinance."

The Lieutenant-Governor's salary having become a charge on the local Government, it became necessary to legalise its payment.

It was also thought expedient at the same time to exempt the Governor from the payment of Import duties.

Ordinances Nos. 10, 11, and 12.—"The Liquor License Ordinance," "The Excise Ordinance," and the "Still License Ordinance."

Ordinance No. 13.—"The Medical Officer's Ordinance."

It became necessary to amend the law on this subject, and the new Ordinance, amongst other things, provides for the appointment of a Colonial Surgeon; also for the more full and better carrying out of the law with reference to vaccination.

Ordinance No. 14.—"To provide for the appointment of a "Clerk to the Executive and Legislative Councils, and Confidential "Clerk to the Lieutenant-Governor."

On the inauguration of the present system of Government it became necessary to appoint a clerk to the Executive and Legislative Councils and confidential clerk to the Lieutenant-Governor. This Ordinance legalises and makes provision for that appointment.

Population.

The estimated population on the 31st December 1880 was 43,807, the net increase over 1879 being 893.

The census of the 1st May 1871 shows - -	37,684
Estimated population on 31st December 1879 - -	42,914
Natural increase during 1880, 2·08 per cent. - -	893
Total estimated population for 1880 - - -	43,807

Or equal to 328 to the square mile.

The number of deaths were 995, while the births registered amounted to 1,888, thus showing an excess of births over deaths of 893.

The death rate for the year was 2·32 per cent., while that of births was 4·20 per cent.

The public health of the Colony has, on the whole, been good during the year under report.

Imports and Exports.

IMPORTS.

	1879.			1880.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
United Kingdom - - - -	84,186	15	11	67,333	13	6
British North America - - -	2,299	1	3	4,082	8	5
British West Indies - - - -	54,080	4	7	55,931	9	10
United States - - - -	12,695	9	11	11,250	2	2
Foreign countries - - - -	3,271	4	2	4,104	4	0
Total - -	156,532	15	10	142,701	17	11

EXPORTS.

	1879.	1880.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - - - -	137,842 7 5	152,544 13 2
British West Indies - - - -	7,887 1 10	13,976 14 1
Foreign countries - - - -	3,697 8 3	5,206 4 11
	149,426 17 6	171,727 12 2
		149,426 17 6
Excess in 1880 - - - - - -		22,300 14 8

It will be seen that the value of exports in 1880 exceeded those of the previous year by 22,300*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, while the imports were 17,913*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* less than those of 1879.

I annex a statement showing the imports for 1849, and those of 1879 and 1880.

		1849.	1879.	1880.
Bread - - -	lbs.	57,127	129,149	144,443
Flour - - -	barrels	6,272	11,758	11,443½
Rice - - - -	lbs.	94,918	458,533	491,455
Brandy, gin - - -	gallons	1,467	11,714	9,582
Tobacco - - -	lbs.	38,272	67,194	66,735
Lumber - - -	feet	1,466,721	1,943,219	1,735,398

These six articles, being in general use, serve as an example.

The following is a table of exports for the years 1879 and 1880.

	1879.	1880.
	tons cwts. qrs. lbs.	tons cwts. qrs. lbs.
Sugar - - -	1,953 14 2 16	1,659 5 0 8
Cocoa - - -	1,576 13 0 4	2,107 14 1 4
Spices - - -	20 19 3 8	37 6 1 18
Rum - - -	24,300 gallons	1,945 gallons
	tons cwts. qrs. lbs.	tons cwts. qrs. lbs.
Cotton - - -	68 10 0 10	65 6 1 20

In the year 1880 there were 450 vessels entered ; their aggregate tonnage amounted to 78,539 tons.

The number cleared was 425, with an aggregate tonnage of 66,206.

Gaols and Prisons.

There were in 1880 199 committals, the daily average number in prison being 50, and the daily average cost per head was 1*s.* 3*d.* The total cost of the establishment, including staff, was 1,065*l.* 7*s.* 5½*d.*

Criminal Statistics.

The returns shows a considerable decrease in the number of cases reported to the police during 1880; they are as follows:—

Assaults and other offences against the person	595
Malicious injury to property	724
Threatening, abusive words or behaviour	518
Other offences	915

In the superior courts there were 38 cases dealt with, 23 of which were convicted, 10 acquitted, 2 thrown out by the grand jury, and in three cases a nolle prosequi was entered.

They were as follows:—1 murder, 2 manslaughter, 13 for other offences against the person, 1 concealment of birth, 1 prædial larceny, 14 other offences against property, and 6 for miscellaneous offences, making a total of 38.

Hospitals.

The following Government institutions are included under this head viz:—

1. Colony Hospital.
2. The Yaws Hospital.
3. District Hospital, St. Andrew's.
4. District Hospital, St. Patrick's.
5. Lunatic Asylum.
6. Poor House.
7. Leper Asyum.

Colony Hospital.

Number of inmates on 1st January	126
Admitted during year	508
Died	27
Discharged	511

Yaws Hospital.

Number of inmates on 1st January	18
Admitted during year	76
Died	—
Discharged	76

District Hospital, St. Andrew's.

Number of inmates on 1st January	8
Admitted during year	76
Died	—
Discharged	80

District Hospital, St. Patrick's.

Number of inmates on 1st January -	11
Admitted during year - - -	60
Died - - - - -	3
Discharged - - - -	60

Lunatic Asylum.

Number of inmates on 1st January -	35
Admitted during year - - -	22
Died - - - - -	5
Discharged - - - -	5

Leper Asylums.

Number of inmates on 1st January -	6
Admitted during year - - -	—
Died - - - - -	1
Discharged - - - -	1

Poor House.

Number of inmates on 1st January -	36
Admitted during year - - -	41
Died - - - - -	8
Discharged - - - -	21

The total cost of these institutions, exclusive of the medical officer's salaries, amounted to 4,257*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, and the daily average cost of the inmates in the Colony Hospital, Ulcer Ward, and Yaws Hospital was 1*s.* 2½*d.*, and that of the Lunatic Asylum and Leper Asylum and the Poor House was 1*s.* 2*d.*

Police.

The force consists of an inspector, one sergeant major, four sergeants, four corporals, and 42 privates.

The total expenditure under this head amounted to 2,956*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*

Militia.

The Militia corps was during the year regularly trained.

Pensions.

Mr. Thomas J. Rowley, Revenue Officer, retired on a pension of 52*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

Agriculture.

The returns show the number of acres under cultivation to be 14,188, of which 7,833 acres are in cocoa and coffee, 1,271 in sugar, and 163 in ground provisions, 5,693 in pasture, and 39,962 uncultivated.

Immigration.

There have been no fresh immigrants introduced during this year. The revenue collected under this head and placed to the credit of this special fund amounted to 5,184*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, and the total expenditure amounted to 3,444*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, which left a balance to the credit of this fund of 2,231*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*

Post Office.

The number of letters, papers, and books which passed through the Post Office in 1880 were as follows:—

——	Letters.	Papers.	Books.	Total.
Received - - -	13,000	12,300	3,564	28,864
Sent - - -	12,320	4,908	744	17,972

The revenue of the Post Office is estimated to have been 2,055*s.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, which includes money orders to the amount of 1,242*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, while the expenditure was 2,025*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, thus showing a balance of 40*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the Island during the last two years was as follows:—

In 1879, 92·01 inches.
In 1880, 110 inches.

General Remarks.

The year under review has been on the whole a prosperous one, although the sugar crop was short. The revenue was the largest ever collected.

The crop of cocoa and spices was the largest ever gathered in Grenada, and the Colony continues steadily to advance in prosperity.

The expenditure on public works has been very large, but much good work has been done. New roads have been made, and those that were in bad order have been made useable.

The condition and management of the public medical institutions continues to be most satisfactory.

The health of the Colony has been very good, as clearly shown by the moderate death rate of 2·32 per cent. There was a marked decrease in the number of the marriages solemnised. In 1879 there were 445, while during the year under review there have been only 293, showing a decrease of 152.

The active measures which have been taken during the last two years to open up and improve the communications of the

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Colony are fast producing good results, and cultivation, business, and locomotion are thus facilitated.

Speaking generally of the condition of the peasantry of the Colony, I may fairly say that they are happy, contented, and law abiding. With very few exceptions, they are well to do; want and poverty being nearly unknown, except amongst the aged and infirm.

The indentured immigrants are working well and contentedly, and the relations between employers and labourers is, upon the whole, very satisfactory. I append a table of statistical information on the Colony, which has been prepared with great care, and which I hope will be found useful.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. W. HARLEY,
Lieutenant-Governor.

His Excellency
The Governor-in-Chief, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Barbados.

MEMORANDUM.

The large decrease in the quantity of rum exported in 1880, as compared with 1879, arose from the passing of Ordinance 11 of 1880. Under this Ordinance the consumption duty on rum was increased from 2*s.* to 3*s.* per gallon, at proof.

The effect of this Ordinance was to create a demand amongst dealers who purchased largely in order to lay in a stock against the new law. There being this local demand there was no exportation beyond 20 puncheons sent away in the early part of the year.

To give an idea of the extent of the increased consumption duty received, as against the decrease in the exportation of rum, I may state, that whilst in 1879 duty was received on 59,511 gallons; in 1880, the quantity upon which duty was received, amounted to 65,366 gallons, or 5,855 gallons in excess of 1879.

(Signed) J. W. HARLEY,
Lieutenant-Governor.

10th December 1881.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 10.

Governor ROBINSON, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Barbados, January 9, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy in duplicate of the Blue Book of St. Lucia for the year 1880, together with Mr. Goldsworthy's report thereon.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Government Office, Castries,

SIR, October 18, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for 1880. It will scarcely be expected that I should enter into an elaborate comparison of its contents with those of previous years, as from my recent arrival in the Colony, and from the fact that the duties of Administrator in 1880 were discharged by other Officers it must be evident that I am not in a position to do so.

I will, however, touch briefly upon the more important headings of revenue, expenditure, and legislation, &c., leaving the Blue Book to speak for itself upon other and less important matters.

Revenue.

2. The revenue received in 1880 was 2,841*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* in excess of that estimated, comparing favourably with that received in the years 1877, 1878, and 1879, the revenue being for those years respectively, 28,286*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, 28,297*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, 31,872*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, against 32,430*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, thus showing if not a large at all events a constant and progressive increase in the receipts.

3. The following are the principal heads under which an increase in revenue is shown: — "Imports," "Tonnage," "Licenses," "Stamps," "Road Tax and Fines," "Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees," and "Miscellaneous" all show for the past three years a steady upward tendency, "Road Tax and Fines" alone excepted, which from 1,626*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.* in 1877 has fallen to 1,394*l.* 1*s.* 0*d.* in 1880. This however exceeds the receipts from the same source in the previous year by 74*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

4. The amount 218*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* received under the head of "Immigration" was paid to general revenue under the provisions of

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section 19 of the Consolidated Immigration Ordinance, 1880. No such heading appears in the three previous years, and no sum was placed on the estimates for 1880 under this head.

5. Under the headings where a decrease appears I regret to say that "Rum Duty" shows a considerable falling off, the receipts being in the year under consideration only 7,175*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* against 9,305*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* in 1879, 7,986*l.* 19*s.* 0*d.* in 1878, and 8,021*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* in 1877. Various reasons have been assigned for this diminution Amongst others adduced are: 1st, that the duty on spirits manufactured in this Island is too high, and that consequently rum is largely smuggled from the neighbouring French Island of Martinique; and 2nd, that the distiller's license, 100*l.*, is almost prohibitory, and that rum manufactured in the Island cannot be sold at a remunerative profit to compete with smuggled rum, and consequently that so much is not manufactured as formerly. My own views have already been expressd in various Despatches connected with the Rum Amendment Ordinance introduced and subsequently approved by the Secretary of State this year, so that it will be unnecessary to recapitulate them here. My own opinion is that the action of some distillers is as much the cause of the decrease as that of any Martinique smuggler, and that owing to the hitherto defective state of the law they have with impunity in many instances been able to defraud the revenue by supplying retail spirit dealers with rum on which duty had never been paid; and the law itself, by permitting grog shops on estates where distillation is carried on, had largely contributed to the falling off in the revenue. I may mention, however, that a new Act recently passed will, whilst preventing this in future, provide also for distillation not being allowed to take place except in the presence of a revenue officer, and when not distilling the Act further makes provision for the efficient locking up of stills. Measures have also been adopted for a better preventive service to guard against smuggling from the sea board, and it is to be hoped that those now in force and others which will shortly come into operation may have the desired effect of raising the revenue. Personally I think it would be a most unwise piece of legislation, though recommended by some, to reduce the duty on rum, so that it should, as will necessarily follow, be drunk in larger quantities by the labouring population than at present. I am further convinced that if all rum that is now used in the Island paid duty a very handsome revenue would accrue. The main duty of the Government, therefore, it appears to me, is to close up every avenue and loop-hole for fraud on the part of distillers, and by active supervision of the coast line to prevent the importation of smuggled rum, and thus enable the distiller to compete on equal terms with the honest importer.

Rent.

6. There is a small decrease, 20*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, under this head. The receipts are, however, very fluctuating, as will be seen by reference to previous years.

Expenditure.

7. The actual expenditure for 1880 reached 31,917*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, whilst that estimated was 29,057*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, showing an excess expenditure of 2,859*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* Under certain heads an excess expenditure is shown of 4,155*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* over and above that estimated, but against this must be placed under drafts to the extent of 1,295*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, leaving the actual over-draft 2,859*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* as above. Of the sum 4,155*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, 2,092*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* is disposed of at once, as it was not foreseen, and consequently was not estimated for, that further calls to that amount would be made in respect of the St. Lucia Central Sugar Factory. 599*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* was spent by Resolution of Council, approved by the Secretary of State, after the framing of the estimates, for alterations to the Lunatic Asylum and Police Barracks; and 327*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* for the introduction of Coolies also not estimated for; 197*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* was an unavoidable excess under the head of police and gaols; 689*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* for hospitals and dispensaries, owing to the increased number of patients; 77*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for vaccination; 48*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* for revenue services; and for miscellaneous 79*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, and 42*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* for trifling excesses in various other departments, making in all a total of 4,155*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* Were, however, the sums voted subsequent to the framing of the estimates, viz. 3,019*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, to be deducted from this total, a balance of only 1,135*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* would remain as the excess in certain departments over the estimated expenditure; contra this would be 1,295*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, the under-draft in others, or in other words a saving on the estimated expenditure of 159*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

Public Debt.

8. The public debt at the end of 1880 amounted to 34,100*l.* The interest thereon, amounting to 2,046*l.*, is at the rate of six per cent. per annum. The principal is chiefly invested in the St. Lucia Central Sugar Factory, which has not hitherto been in a position to pay a dividend. Matters, however, appear to be taking a turn for the better, and if the promise which the sugar crop at present gives be realised and the price of sugar does not fall, a much more favourable report will be able to be made ere long.

Public Works.

9. The public works undertaken during the past year were such as had become an actual necessity. An addition was made to the Royal Gaol at a cost of 1,009*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* for the accommodation of female prisoners. This building is entirely removed from where the male prisoners are located, being separated by a high wall. One of the buildings on Mome Fortunè was also adapted for the reception of lunatics; the cost of alteration was 283*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* This building will serve a temporary purpose, but is not fitted for permanent occupation. Increased accommodation was provided for the police at a cost of 315*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, 2,589*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* was spent on roads and bridges, but this sum is quite inadequate to maintain them in a proper state. The frequent land slips which take place during the wet season are a constant drain upon the vote, whilst

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the heavy rains to which St. Lucia is subject so cut up the roads that at times they are rendered almost impassable and render a large outlay inevitable. A few smaller items make up the total expenditure 4,397*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* under the head of public works.

Legislation.

10. Several useful measures were introduced during 1880, and are as a rule found to be working beneficially. As they are mentioned in detail in the Blue Book, it is hardly necessary to recapitulate them here.

Amongst those that perhaps may be more particularly referred to is the "Amending Police Ordinance," by which, whilst the efficiency of the force was not impaired, considerable alteration was made in the economical organization of the force.

Imprisonment for debt was abolished by an Ordinance, No. 5 of 1880, which became law in May of that year.

An Ordinance was likewise passed "To amend and consolidate "the law relating to immigration." The Immigration Act will, however, yet require further amendments, and this is engaging my attention. Provision was likewise made for taking the census in 1881.

Imports.

11. I am glad to be able to report to your Excellency that the importations from Great Britain, our Colonial Possessions, and Foreign Countries have severally increased from 43,257*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, 21,587*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, and 45,627*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* in 1879 to 44,852*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, 25,549*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, and 56,960*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* in 1880, giving a total in the former year of 110,472*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* as compared with a total of 127,362*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* in the year under review.

Exports.

12. The value of exports must in all West Indian Islands, where the sole staple product is sugar, necessarily vary according as the seasons are good or the reverse for sugar cultivation, and is much dependent also on the rise or fall in the price of sugar, and the fluctuations in the market are not unfrequent. Consequently, we find that in 1880, when the crop was below the average, the value of the exports was only 194,694*l.* 10*s* 1*d.*, whilst in 1879 it amounted to 210,894*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

Civil Establishment.

13. Mr. Des Vœux ceased to be Administrator of this Colony on his nomination to the Government of the Bahamas in June 1880. Mr. Dix continued to administer the Government till the close of the year.

Education.

14. I regret to say that much requires to be done in this respect, but I am not yet prepared with a scheme, though I trust shortly to be able to submit one for your Excellency's approval. Suffice it to say that of a total of 8,687 children in this Island between the ages of 4 and 14 only 2,494 attend school.

General Remarks.

15. With the exception of three fatal cases of yellow fever, the health of the Island was good during the year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROGER TUCKFORD GOLDSWORTHY,
Administrator of the Government.

His Excellency
Col. R. W. Harley, C.B., C.M.G.,
&c. &c &c.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 11.

Governor KERR, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
MY LORD, June 27, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1880, which has just been completed by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. As my administration commenced almost at the close of the year, I fear that my report upon it will be a very imperfect one.

3. It was a prosperous year for the Colonists. They exported a much larger quantity of wool than hitherto, and they obtained a fair price for it.

4. Direct communication with Europe and with both coasts of the South American continent was established during the year, and this will always be regarded as the greatest benefit which could have been conferred on the Colony. Not only has it ensured a regular and reliable mail service, and afforded the fnhabitants, for the first time, the means of travelling with comort and security, but by enabling traders to import goods independently of the local shipowners, it has annihilated an injurious monopoly and considerably reduced the prices of almost all imported goods.

Taxes and Duties.

5. Licenses to sell spirits, fermented liquors, and tobacco, licences to auctioneers and for keeping dogs in Stanley, duties on spirits, wine, beer, tobacco, and cigars imported into the Colony, and on goods sold at public auction, are the only taxes and duties which are imposed.

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6. Tobacco for sheep washing purposes is imported free of duty, and this privilege is said to be abused to the detriment of the revenue.

Revenue and Expenditure.

7. The revenue for 1880 amounted to 5,519*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, exclusive of a balance of 223*l.* remaining from the previous year, showing a net increase of 496*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* over the revenue of 1879, which was 5,022*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* This increase arises from the compulsory land sales which were made during the year under the terms of the grazing leases. These sales realized 1,056*l.* 9*s.* against 150*l.* for town lands sold in 1879. The annual rental of Crown lands was also increased under the provisions of some of the leases, from 1,881*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* in 1879 to 2,149*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* in 1880.

8. In other respects the revenue had actually decreased The falling off in the Customs receipts alone was 489*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, or nearly 25 per cent., and there was also a falling off in miscellaneous receipts amounting to 188*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, so that but for the abnormal advantage derived from the compulsory land sales, the revenue of 1880 would have been less than that of 1879 by 228*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, notwithstanding the increase in the annual revenue from grazing leases.

9. The expenditure for 1880 amounted to 5,607*l.* 6*s.*, or 705*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* less than that of the previous year which was 6,312*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

10. There was an increase of 84*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* on the pension list by the retirement of the late foreman carpenter, of 125*l.* an extra charge for conveyance of mails by a steamship, and of 13*l.* 19*s.* on casual expenditure, making together an increase of 223*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*

11. There was a decrease of 400*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* on the abolition of the office of foreman of carpenters and storekeeper, and by the reduction of the Governor's salary, of 30*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* interest on debt (extinguished), of 11*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, judicial (casual), of 201*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, civil store and public works, of 239*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* transport and commissariat, and of 45*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* in miscellaneous services, amounting altogether to 929*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, and showing a net decrease of expenditure, as compared with 1879, of 705*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*

Public Debt.

12. There is no longer any public debt, but the successful efforts of my predecessor to extinguish it required an almost too rigid retrenchment, which must be followed by increased expenditure on works of public utility when the resources of the Colony will admit of it.

Public Works.

13. No public works of importance were carried on during the year.

14. The condition of the streets, drains, and public buildings had become defective and will require a considerable future outlay.

Legislation.

15. Four Ordinances were passed in 1880.

No. 1. To make further provision for the postal service of the Colony.

No. 2. To amend the Pilot Ordinance No. 5. of 1871.

No. 3. To make further provision for carrying out the Customs Duties Ordinances.

No. 4. To amend the Administration of Justice Ordinance, 1876.

These several Ordinances have been already fully reported on and require no further comment.

Civil Establishment.

16. Mr. Callaghan, the late Governor, left the Colony on the 17th June on leave of absence, when Mr. R. C. Packe, as Senior Justice of the Peace, became Administrator of the Government until my arrival on the 24th November as Mr. Callaghan's successor, when I assumed the Administration.

17. George Kelway, the foreman of the carpenters and storekeeper, retired on a pension at the end of 1879, and the office of foreman was abolished; the duties of storekeeper are performed by the Chief Constable.

Pensions.

18. George Kelway went on the pension list on the 1st January 1880, but he died in September of the same year. There was no other addition to the pension list during the year.

Population.

19. The population at the end of 1880 was estimated at 1,497.

20. There were 60 births, 7 marriages and 9 deaths during the year.

Education.

21. There are only three schools in the Colony, a primary and an infant school in Stanley supported by the Government, and a primary school at Darwin supported by the Falkland Islands Company for the children of the persons employed by them.

22. The schools are fairly well attended and the elementary instruction is good.

23. The children of the settlers and shepherds in the distant rural districts are as yet without any provision for their education.

Imports and Exports.

24. The value of the imports in 1880 was 33,505*l.* In 1879 it was 38,940*l.*, and in 1878 it was 36,792*l.*

25. This falling off is only apparent, as most of the goods imported were brought by sailing vessels at long and uncertain intervals, so that the difference in the imports of the several years is accounted for by the arrival of large shipments at the beginning or end of the year, unduly increasing or decreasing the relative amounts accounted for on the returns.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

26. The consumption of imported goods has in reality undergone little change for several years, but a larger importation may be looked for in future in consequence of the facilities afforded by the steamships of the Kosmos line, and by the increased consumption which may be expected consequent on the reduction in price which is already apparent in most of the articles imported.

27. The value of the exports in 1880 was 88,564*l.*, that of 1879 was 71,340*l.*, and that of 1878 was 51,055*l.*

28. This improvement is owing to the rapid increase of the flocks on most of the grazing stations.

It is due mainly to the increased quantity of wool exported, and not to any further improvement in the price, which in 1879 had already risen to as great a height.

29. The steady increase in the quantity of tallow exported, the value of which in 1877 was 3,800*l.*, in 1878 4,874*l.*, in 1879 5,940*l.*, and in 1880 6,760*l.*, arises from the necessity for reducing the numbers of the sheep in districts which have become overstocked, and of getting rid of the sheep which have become old and weak.

30. The following table shows the relative value of the exports for the last three years :—

	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£	£	£
Bones, horns, &c.	8	10	18
Hides	5,170	5,020	7,875
Junk: Metal and old iron	106	90	120
Manufactured goods, re-exported	600	300	120
Oil: Seal and penguin	1,312	1,200	1,100
Sealskins	1,213	1,400	2,100
Sheepskins	2,040	1,940	2,144
Tallow	4,874	5,940	6,760
Wool	35,732	55,440	68,327
Totals	51,055	71,340	88,564

Shipping.

31. Thirty-eight sailing vessels arrived in the Colony during 1880, their aggregate tonnage was 20,475 and their crews numbered 657.

In 1879 the arrivals were 44 in number, the tonnage was 12,725, and the crews numbered 518.

Table of Vessels which arrived in 1880.

Nationality.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
Great Britain	22	13,329	383
United States	9	4,843	175
Germany	6	1,363	78
Spain	1	440	15
Totals	38	20,475	651

32. Eight of these vessels (four British, two German, one American, and one Spanish), came for refuge and assistance.

33. One of them, the G. F. Handel, of Bremen, loaded with coal and general merchandize for Honolulu arrived with her cargo on fire, and as it could not be extinguished, she was run on shore and became a wreck.

34. The other seven vessels had experienced disasters at sea. Three were leaky, one was dismasted, one had her decks swept and bulwarks destroyed, one had her rudder broken, and one, an iron ship, had her deck beams broken, and had to lie here until new beams came from England.

They were all repaired and proceeded on their voyages.

35. Besides these, the "David Law," of Glasgow, loaded with coals for San Francisco was abandoned on fire on the Elephant Cays and was totally destroyed. Her cargo ignited when she was in the neighbourhood of these Islands, and it appeared on the investigation which was made by a Court of Inquiry at Stanley, that great blame was attributable to the shippers. The coal was known to be of a dangerous and inflammable nature, which was in this case increased by part of the cargo being pig iron, and no precautions had been taken to guard against spontaneous combustion. The captain was so badly supplied with charts, that although he was for two days (after his cargo took fire) within a short distance of four harbours, he did not know of their existence and had to abandon the ship to total destruction. In the words of the Court, "loss of property to the extent of several thousands "of pounds, might have been averted by the possession of a chart, "the cost of which is half a crown"

36. The ships of war which came to the Colony during the year were Her Majesty's ships "Raleigh" and "Garnet," the United States ship "Marion," and the German ship "Bismarck."

37. On the 20th of April the "Ramses," one of the steamships of the Kosmos line arrived from Montevideo, having been engaged in behalf of the Government by Mr. Monson, the British Minister, to bring the mails for the Colony which were awaiting transmission.

38. The "Ramses" called again on the 17th June on her return from the Pacific and took on the homeward mails and several passengers. Afterwards the service was regularly continued. The steamships of the Kosmos Company called at Stanley seven times during the year.

Steam Communication.

39. The hope expressed by my predecessor in his report on the Blue Book of 1879, "that steam communication would shortly be "established between this Colony and the outer world," has been happily realized by a contract entered into with the Kosmos Steamship Company of Hamburgh, one of their steamers calls at Stanley every month, alternately bringing the outward and taking the homeward mails. These steamships stop at Punta Arenas in the Straits of Magellan, both on their outward and homeward voyages,

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and an opportunity is thus afforded of sending mails to England viâ Punta Arenas by the outward steamer, and of receiving mails in like manner by the homeward steamer.

40. The subsidy paid for this service is 1,800*l.* per annum, or 150*l.* for each visit. Of this the Imperial Government pays 1,000*l.* and the Colony 800*l.*

41, The benefits of this service to the Colonists soon became apparent in the cheapening of most imported goods. By the end of the year the price of clothing had been reduced from 15 to 25 per cent; provisions from 10 to 20 per cent; tea from 3*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* per pound; potatoes from 2½*d.* to 1½*d.* per pound; coals from 60*s.* to 50*s.* per ton; iron roofing and fencing wire about 20 per cent; dipping materials from 12½ to 15 per cent.; and fruit from Montevideo 40 to 50 per cent.

42. The mail service was performed punctually and satisfactorily; a good many passengers were conveyed both ways, and, considering the competition with the sailing vessels of the local merchants, to whom also many of the sheep farmers are indebted, as much cargo was carried as could have been expected.

43. The Falkland Islands Company, whose wool is well pressed, have shipped largely by the steamers.

44. I came out with my family in the "Theben," one of the newest vessels of the line, and I can speak very favourably of the comfort which we enjoyed and of the good qualities of the vessel in bad weather.

Sheep Farming.

45. The whole of the available Crown lands have already been occupied on grazing leases.

46. The Falkland Islands Company, who are the most extensive sheep farmers in the Colony, have acquired by purchase, chiefly by means of land orders, 33,336 acres of land in East Falkland, in addition to the 700,000 acres which they possess in the district known as Lafonia and its adjacent Islands. The Company also leases 18 stations in East Falkland, containing nominally 102,684 acres.

47. Eight other sheep farmers on East Falkland occupy on grazing leases 47 stations, containing nominally 490,000 acres.

48. In the West Falkland and its adjacent Islands 12 persons possess 43,609 acres of freehold land, and occupy on grazing leases 19 stations, containing nominally 968,390 acres.

49. The Crown land leased as grazing stations, chiefly on leases of 21 years, is nominally 1,561,074 acres, but it is supposed to include a much larger area, as the stations have not been surveyed but roughly allotted from the map of the nautical survey.

50. The number of sheep at the end of 1880 on freehold land is said to have been 117,700, chiefly belonging to the Falkland Islands Company and their tenants on Lively, Speedwell, and Bealker Islands, and to Mr. Dean on Pebble Island.

51. The number on the leased lands of the Crown is estimated to have been 118,000 in East Falkland, and 200,000 on West Falkland and the adjacent Islands.

52. The Falkland Islands Company, whose business is well arranged and conducted, have substantial works for converting their surplus sheep into tallow. Mr. Cobb, the Company's Manager, is good enough to inform me that the number of sheep boiled down by them in 1880 was 15,891, and that the weight of wool obtained by them in 1878–79 was 4,037 cwts., and in 1879–80 it was 4,572 cwts.

Meteorological Observations.

53. I append a table of meteorological observations, also kindly given to me by Mr. Cobb, who has been careful in recording them. These data are both reliable and interesting.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

ABSTRACT of METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS at STANLEY, February to December 1880.

—	Barometer.		Air temperature.						Mean Temperature of Dew point.	Relative Humidity.	Black Bulb Thermometer in vacuo. Absolute Max.	Absolute Min. on Grass.	Amount of Cloud, 1 to 10.	Rainfall.			Days of Rain or Snow.
			Mean.		Absolute.									Total Fall.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		
	9 a.m.	9 p.m.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Date.	Min.	Date.							Amount.	Date.	
February -	29·544	29·571	57·3	44·0	67·8	20	36·0	22	44·3	74	125·3	—	6·8	1·96	·65	10	16
March -	·496	·528	52·0	41·0	61·2	2	32·9	27	41·3	77	121·2	30·9	6·4	4·46	1·29	10	24
April -	·487	·487	48·2	38·1	53·9	8	31·2	21	41·3	89	105·8	26·0	6·9	3·09	·76	21	25
May -	·604	·606	42·6	35·0	48·6	11	28·7	2	36·1	91	112·5	24·3	7·0	2·09	·29	16	23
June -	·784	·800	40·7	33·0	46·7	20	26·8	3	34·8	90	97·0	23·5	7·9	1·87	·39	3	20
July -	·974	·887	39·9	33·5	44·3	7	23·7	20	34·2	90	96·0	22·8	8·1	1·48	·21	17	23
August -	·573	·568	39·1	30·6	44·0	31	12·2	11	31·5	86	111·8	13·6	7·1	2·66	·68	14	25
September	·679	·717	46·9	34·9	58·7	20	25·2	11	35·7	82	113·0	23·4	7·2	1·84	·27	29	19
October -	·726	·724	49·9	36·4	61·9	26	26·4	6	35·9	74	124·5	17·8	7·1	1·07	·26	24	14
November	·357	·390	53·8	38·8	66·0	4	31·2	16	37·9	69	125·0	28·0	6·5	2·50	·43	14	21
December	·388	·403	52·8	40·5	65·0	4	33·4	10	42·1	81	126·0	26·1	7·7	4·00	·66	26	27
Totals -														27·02			237
Means -	29·601	29·607	47·6	36·9					37·7	82			7·2				
Extremes -					67·8	Feb. 20	12·2	Aug. 11			126·0	13·6					

Barometer readings corrected and reduced to sea level at 32° Fahrenheit.

DIRECTION of the WIND at 9 A.M. from FEBRUARY to DECEMBER 1880.

—	N.	N.N.W.	N.W.	W.N.W.	W.	W.S.W.	S.W.	S.S.W.	S.	S.S.E.	S.E.	E.S.E.	E.	E.N.E.	N.E.	N.N.E.	Calm.
February -	3	1	1	3	11	5	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March -	0	3	2	3	6	3	2	6	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
April -	0	1	0	2	11	2	7	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
May -	1	3	0	2	5	1	4	0	1	0	2	0	1	3	2	1	5
June -	1	0	1	0	5	2	5	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	9
July -	3	0	3	2	4	2	6	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	4	1
August -	3	0	0	4	10	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
September	0	0	2	4	15	1	3	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
October -	1	2	2	4	9	3	1	2	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	1
November	1	0	1	3	9	4	6	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
December	1	2	3	1	9	1	7	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Days -	14	12	15	28	94	27	48	17	13	5	4	8	4	7	6	9	24

The instruments were not set in time for taking observations in January 1880.

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Keppel Island Mission Station.

54. On the 31st December 1877, the Bishop of the Falkland Islands forwarded to my predecessor a very interesting account of the history of the mission on Keppel Island, and of the successful efforts of the missionaries in humanizing the savage natives of Tierra del Fuego. This account appeared in Governor Callaghan's report on the Blue Book of 1877.

55. In reply to my application for further information concerning the mission work on Keppel Island, and more particularly with regard to the material value of so small an Island as a grazing station, the Bishop has kindly supplied me with the following statement, which contains also a brief resumé and continuation of the former account.

"As a basis of operations for missionary work among the natives of the Fuegian Archipelago, Keppel Island has been for many years of much use. It has proved a good place of training for the permanent introduction of civilized Christian life into Tierra del Fuego itself.

"The Island consists of about 10,000 acres. A good deal of the land is very poor, in some parts boggy, in others stony, yet it is calculated to support well 3,000 sheep and 200 head of cattle and horses. Sheltered valleys afford good opportunity for gardening, and accordingly many tons of potatoes, together with swedes, and other vegetables, are grown regularly. Dairy produce and bacon add something to the yearly return. The value of the wool and hides varies of course with the rise and fall of the market prices, but the revenue derived from these, and from the sale of potatoes and other products, has made Keppel Island not only self supporting but helpful to the other branches of the mission. Considering that the residents are not less than 28 on the average, it will be seen that the Island does a fair amount of duty, when after meeting their wants, it not only supplies the crew of the mission vessel the 'Allan Gardiner', to a large extent with beef, mutton, and vegetables, and provides considerable quantities of these for the use of the mission in Tierra del Fuego, but sends to the market in Stanley some 20 tons of potatoes annually, to say nothing of wool, hides, &c.

"The number of Indians on Keppel Island is just now 19. These receive daily instruction and take part in the work of the mission farm and garden. As the mission in Tierra del Fuego itself may be now regarded as permanent, the value of Keppel Island for training and preparatory purposes is naturally less than it originally was. But it would be unwise to abandon it, so long as it contributes to the strength of the Christian enterprise in furtherance of which it was first of all occupied."

"For a person of moderate aims it is plain that a station corresponding in size to that of Keppel Island would furnish in return for outlay of capital and energy a far from despicable income. Such a station however should either be insular or well fenced, and have a convenient harbour for shipment of produce.

General.

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56. The value of the pasturage throughout the Colony has, I think, been considerably under estimated.

57. It has been stated that it takes four acres of pasture to support a single sheep.

58. Perhaps a belief in this assertion led to the allotment of the whole of the Crown lands in for the most part large districts, and on long leases, at an exceedingly low rent.

59. The capabilities of large districts of grazing land yet remain undeveloped, but it seems certain that the value of the pasture is much greater than it is admitted to be.

60. The information I have been able to obtain as to actual results is corroborated by that which is recorded concerning Keppel Island, the area of available pasturage on which compares unfavourably with that of the average grazing stations throughout the Colony. Some of the smaller stations have been fully stocked, but there are still large areas of unused land.

61. One station on the West Falkland contains nearly 60,000 acres. It is a peninsula with good harbours and is capable of being divided into five stations each larger and better than Keppel Island. It was leased for 21 years and half of the term has expired. It has never been stocked with sheep, but the original wild cattle roam over it. I do not know what profit these yield to the tenants, who also occupy other large districts as sheep farms, but it will probably be turned to valuable account in the future.

62. Other lessees have still large areas of unstocked land having secured much larger districts than they could occupy profitably.

63. The sheep farmers are fully alive to the value of their holdings. A gentleman who leases a station of 100,000 acres (less allowance for mountains) for 21 years at a rent of 100*l.* per annum for the first ten years, and 160*l.* per annum for the remainder of the lease, told me that he would not dispose of his lease by assignment for less than 14,000*l.* This lease has also about half expired. The stock and buildings would probably be valued at 6,000*l.* or thereabouts.

64. The population is not likely to increase so much as to cause any appreciable addition to the revenue from customs duties, so that if the Colony is to be self supporting it must depend chiefly on the rent of the Crown lands.

65. The cheapening of the necessaries of life consequent on the introduction of steam communication has not as yet made any difference in the rate of wages. The rate for ordinary labourers is 6*s.* per day, carpenters and masons 8*s.* 4*d.*, but when carpenters are employed in repairing ships which have suffered damage at sea they at once demand wages of 16*s.* 8*d.* to 1*l.* per day.

The masters of ships however complain more of the idleness of the men, who never do a fair day's work, than of the rate of wages.

66. There are other subjects in connexion with the value of Stanley Harbour as a port of refuge, on the question of the visits of Her Majesty's Ships of War and the possibility of the establish-

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ment of a Naval depôt in this Colony, on the condition of the seal fishery, and on the marauding visits of American sealing vessels to the outlying Islands, on which I defer remarking until I have opportunities of further inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. KERR.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

No. 12.

Lieutenant-Governor NAPIER BROOME, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Mauritius,
October 4, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1880, together with the customary report thereon, for the drafting of which I am indebted to the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Honourable H. N. D. Beyts, C.M.G.

2. I assumed the administration of this Government in the last month of the year now reported upon, your Lordship having granted leave of absence to the Governor, his Excellency Sir George Bowen.

3. The cane crop of 1880 to 1881 was of average excellence, showing a considerable improvement upon the previous season. The result was, as usual, an increase of trade and general prosperity; and this has, I rejoice to say, been maintained to the present time, when there is again a good crop in prospect.

4. The import and export trade of 1880 rose to Rs. 54,587,098, and the transactions of the Government left a surplus revenue amounting to Rs. 756,088. No hurricane visited the Island; and 1880, though its returns of revenue and production have at times been considerably surpassed, may be described as a good year for the Government and people of Mauritius.

5. The cattle plague which had raged during 1879 died away, after having destroyed 30,404 cattle, all the stock in the Island but about 7,000 head.

6. The almost entire cessation of the introduction of Coolies from India, the opening of the Moka Railway, the conversion of the Government six per cent. debt, the commencement of a handsome building in Port Louis for the Mauritius Institute, founded by the Governor, are incidents of the year under review which deserve to be noted.

7. A continued decrease in the number of suicides among the Indian population, which fell from 52 in 1878 and 41 in 1879 to 33 in 1880, should be recorded, as it has followed the introduction of the new Labour Law, which came into force on 1st January 1879.

8. But the principal event of 1880, which will be long and gratefully remembered by the people of this Colony, has been your Lordships sanction of the proposals of the Local Government and Legislature for the re-forestation of the Island. Upon the prosecution and success of this undertaking which anywhere would be a great project, and which is vast when compared with the resources of a small community, the future of Mauritius depends.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) F. NAPIER BROOME,
The Earl of Kimberley, Lieutenant-Governor.
&c. &c.

REPORT on the MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK for 1880

I.—*Taxation.*

The rates of postage established by the Postal Union were extended during the year to the Republics of Equador, San Domingo, and Uruguay. No other change was made in the taxes of the Colony.

II.—*Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony.*

The revenue of 1880 amounted to Rs. 7,821,088, showing an increase of Rs. 183,793, as compared with the revenue of 1879. The total expenditure of 1880 was Rs. 7,573,960, which compared to the aggregate expenditure of the previous year, exhibits an increase of Rs. 111,961. On the whole the financial transactions of 1880 shows a surplus of Rs. 247,128.

The rate of revenue per head of population was Rs. 21 72; the rate of expenditure Rs. 21 04.

In 1879 the rates were as follows:—

	Rs.	cts.
Revenue per head - - -	21	37
Expenditure - - -	20	88

III.—*Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.*

The financial transactions of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis (the only municipal institution in the Colony) were as follows:—

	Rs.
Receipts - - - -	672,266
Payments - - - -	648,404
Surplus - - -	56,540

The total municipal debenture debt amounted on the 31st December 1880 to Rs. 1,299,200, and the sinking fund formed at that date was Rs. 264,200.

The conversion of the outstanding municipal debentures, by recourse to a new loan, is now contemplated. An Ordinance to legalise the arrangements necessary for that purpose is intended to be presented to the Legislature during the present session.

IV.—*Military Expenditure.*

The military contribution paid by the Colony in 1880 was Rs. 299,720, Rs. 37,150 less than in 1879, in which year a large payment was made for arrears.

The troops in the Colony at the end of 1880 were as follows:—

Staff - - - - -	11
Artillery - - - -	98
Infantry - - - -	226
Engineers - - - -	9
Army Service Corps - - -	2
,, Hospital Corps - - -	10
	356

V.—*Imports and Exports.*

Exclusive of specie and bullion, the imports amounted to Rs. 20,146,868, and the exports to Rs. 34,440,230, showing, as compared with 1879, a decrease in imports to the extent of Rs. 148,479, and an increase of Rs. 3,818,198 in exports.

Exports of sugar (the staple produce of the Colony) showed an increase in comparison with those of the year previous:—

	Kilograms.
1880 - - - -	110,210,678
1879 - - - -	105,233,273
Increase - -	4,977,405

The value of the sugar exported in 1880 likewise showed an increase.

	Rs.
1880 - - - -	30,492,138
1879 - - - -	27,034,796
Increase - - -	3,457,344

VI.—*Shipping.*

Compared with 1879 the year 1880 shows the following increases under this Act.

	1879.	1880.	Increase.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Inwards - - - -	258,209	269,505	11,296
Outwards - - - -	270,171	272,300	2,129

VII.—*Assets and Liabilities (exclusive of Railway Debts).*

On the 31st December 1880, the assets of the Colony exceeded its liabilities (exclusive of railway debts) by Rs. 1,800,408. The surplus of assets had increased since the beginning of the year by Rs. 218,839.

VIII.—*Railway Debts.*

The railway debts stood as follows:—

	Rate of Interest.	Principal Amount due.
	per cent.	£
(1.) Loan payable November 1882 - - -	6	200,000
(2.) „ „ „ 1895–96 - -	6	400,000
(3.) Savanne Railway Loan - - - -	4½	100,000
(4.) Moka „ „ - - - -	4½	99,100

Of the two first-mentioned amounts the following portions have been converted by the issue of new debentures (bearing interest at 4 per cent.) under Ordinance No. 10 of 1879:—

	£
Of loan payable November 1882 -	69,900
Of loan payable November 1895–1896 - - - -	145,700

IX. *Currency.*

The Commissioners of Currency had notes in circulation amounting to the value of Rs. 3,049,050. Their assets stood as follows:—

	Rs.
1. Specie reserve - - -	1,504,800
2. Invested in England 143,682*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* at 1*s.* 7¾*d.* - - - -	1,746,013
	3,250,813

X.—*Savings Bank.*

The amount deposited in 1880 was Rs. 967,471, or Rs. 74,073 less than in 1879. The falling-off is probably due to the short sugar-crop of 1879 and 1880. This reduction in the annual deposits was the only unfavourable feature in the report of the manager. The number of depositors increased by 840, and the total sum due to depositors, including interest, was Rs. 16,920, larger than at the end of 1879. The aggregate amount standing to the credit of depositors was Rs. 2,666,575, of which amount more than half (namely, Rs. 1,356,911) belonged to Indians:—

XI. *Population.*

The estimated population on the 31st December 1880 was as follows:

Males - - - -	211,374
Females - - - -	148,614
Total - - -	359,988

MAURITIUS.

which is 2,649 more than the total estimated population at the end of 1879 :—

In births there was an increase of 268 as compared with the previous year, and in deaths a decrease of 1,342.

The birth rate in the total population was 37·1 per 1,000, the death rate 28·1 per 1,000. As compared with 1879 the ratio of deaths shows a decrease of 4 per 1,000. It was less in the Indian than in the general population, and less on sugar estates than in other parts of the Island.

Suicides showed a marked decrease; they fell from 52 in 1878, to 41 in 1879, and 33 in 1880.

XII.—*Immigration.*

The Indian immigrants introduced into the Colony in 1880 were as follows :

Adults.

Males - - - -	313
Females - - -	159

Children.

Males - - - -	68
Females - - - -	54
Total - - -	584

The Indian immigrants who left the Colony were as follows :—

Adults.

Males - - - -	1,543
Females - - -	436

Children.

Males - - - -	188
Females - - - -	178
Total - - -	2,345

On the 30th of June 1880, 11,948 Mauritius-born Indians were employed on estates; which number is 1,210 in excess of that which figured on the previous half-yearly return.

The large proportion of old immigrants who return again to Mauritius after visiting their native country, the yearly decrease in the numbers of those who take advantage of the passage back to India which they are free to claim, the smaller number of complaints preferred each year against employers in the courts, and other facts disclosed by the report of the Protector of Immigrants, are evidence of a state of things which redounds to the credit of the community.

XIII.—*Education.*

There were 39 Government schools and 52 State-aided schools in operation at the end of the year. The average attendance was 3,495 in the former and 3,084 in the latter. The cost to Government per pupil was as follows:—

In Government schools Rs. 28 65 per annum. In aided schools Rs. 14 24 per annum, Of the State-aided schools 39 were under Roman Catholic managers, 14 under Church of England managers, and 2 under Presbyterian managers.

In the Royal College and in the Royal College Schools the numbers of pupils had increased as follows:—

——	1879.	1880.	Increase.
Royal College - - - -	172	189	17
„ „ School, Port Louis -	178	183	5
„ „ Curepipe - -	65	68	3
Totals - - -	415	440	25

The total amount disbursed under the head of education in 1880 was Rs. 315,730, *i.e.* Rs. 1,829 morethan in 1879.

XIV.—*Judicial Statistics.*

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates was 32,852, against 30,873 in 1879.

The total number of persons prosecuted in 1880 was 24,280; *i.e.*, 2,419 less than in 1879.

The offences tried were as follows:—

Murder or attempt at murder - -	33
Other offences against the person - -	2,122
Offences against property - - -	4,213
Miscellaneous offences - - -	17,912

Five persons were sentenced to death. The sentence was carried out in one case; in the others the sentences were commuted to imprisonment.

In the case in which the convict was executed the sentence was carried out within the precincts of the gaol.

XV.—*Gaols.*

The total number of persons committed in 1880 was 9,521. In 1879 the number was 9,459. The sentences they had to undergo were as follows:—

(1.) Death - - - -	1
(2.) Five years' imprisonment - -	35
(3.) More than one year and less than five years - - - -	97
(4.) More than three months and less than one year - - - -	518
(5.) Three months or less - - -	4,395

The above-mentioned committals include 884 for vagrancy, and 65 removals to the juvenile reformatory.

MAURITIUS.

XVI.—*Crown Lands.*

The demarcation of Crown lands in 1880 was chiefly performed in the gorges of Black River and at Vallée des Prêtres. It has led to the addition of about 700 arpents of land to the Crown domain. The sales of land effected in 1880 realised 133,787 Rs. The amount of rent received in 1880 was 48,741 Rs. The arrears outstanding amounted to 4,288 Rs. The Crown lands under leases were as follows:—

	Arpents.
Bare land - - - -	652
Land with buildings - - -	411
Pasturage - - - -	3,252
Shooting lands - - -	8,159
Pas Géometriques - - -	3,332
Docks and patent slips - -	41
Islands adjacent to coasts - -	1,653
Sea coasts - - - -	1,019

The number of squatters on Crown lands was considerably reduced. Their holdings are all being brought under regular leases.

XVII.—*Forests, Roadside Plantations, and Botanical Gardens.*

About 44,000 young saplings were distributed from the forest nursery established at Réduit. Most of these plants were eucalypti of different species. Plantations on the banks of the streams at Curepipe, and on Concession Dayot, were effected during the year 1880, and the roadside plantations were kept up and extended.

A museum was added to the Botanical Gardens at Pamplemousses.

Upwards of 280,000 plants were propagated and sent out during 1880.

The number of visitors at the Botanical Gardens rose from 81,703 in 1879 to 86,551 in 1880; the number at the nursery garden, Curepipe, amounted to 34,557.

The cinchonas planted at Curepipe are represented as having progressed slowly in consequence of their having been frequently lopped for cuttings and layers. A plantation on a larger scale has since been experimentally taken in hand.

XVIII.—*Railways.*

The railway receipts amounted to Rs. 1,490,511, *i.e.* Rs. 90,305 more than in 1879. The expenditure was Rs. 1,022,489, Rs. 73,022 more than during the year previous.

The net receipts show an increase :—

	Net receipts.
	Rs.
1879 - - - -	450,739
1880 - - - -	468,022
Increase. - -	17,297

XIX.—*Post Office and Telegraphs.*

The gross revenue of the Post Office decreased from Rs. 69,017 in 1879 to Rs. 67,135 in 1880. On the other hand the amounts paid for sea conveyance of mails increased from Rs. 15,006 in 1879 to Rs. 19,722 in 1880.

The letters and newspapers received and despatched by mail packets were as follows :—

——	Letters.	Newspapers.
1879 - -	202,325	282,516
1880 - -	233,795	298,857
Increases - -	31,470	16,341

The letters and newspapers received and despatched by private ships were as follows :—

——	Letters.	Newspapers.
1879 - -	41,215	29,355
1880 - -	38,103	25,694
Decreases - -	3,112	3,661

These decreases are due to the Natal and Cape correspondence having been transmitted by the mail packets of Messrs. Donald Currie and Co.

XX.—*Observatory.*

The Observatory continued the course of its useful labours under the skilful direction of Dr. Meldrum, the most salient remark in whose report for 1880 is that which points to the deficiency of the rainfall. The paragraph referring to the subject is worded as follows :—

"The rainfall for the year was 34·03 inches, against an average of 48·25 for the six years 1875–80, and of 52·07 for the 10 years 1871–80. Rain fell on 198 days, against an average of 202 days

MAURITIUS. in the years 1875–80. The greatest fall in one day was 3·47 inches on the 19th December. During the five years 1871–75 the greatest fall in one day was 11·45, on the 28th March 1874, and during the six years 1875–80 it was 7·45 inches on the 21st March 1879."

XXI.—*Legislation.*

Twenty-three Ordinances were passed in 1880; the most important of which were the following :—

No. 1. To provide for the carrying out of capital punishments within prisons.

No. 6. To amend the law of mortgage and of prescription.

No. 12. To amend Ordinance No. 17 of 1871, with the view of facilitating marriages.

No. 15. For taking the census of Mauritius and its dependencies in 1881.

No. 19. To provide for the erection and regulation of an institute, a public museum, and a public library.

No. 20. To legalise marriage between a man and the sister of his deceased wife.

XXII.—*Dependencies.*

Seychelles and Rodrigues.

The Seychelles Blue Book for 1880, and the report of the Chief Civil Commissioner thereon, and the report of the Police Magistrate of Rodrigues, are transmitted herewith.

Minor Dependencies.

The following minor dependencies were visited during the year 1880 by the Magistrate appointed under Ordinance No. 41 of 1875 :—

1. Agalega.
2. Diego Garcia.
3. Coetivy.
4. St. Brandon.

The Magistrate's reports were laid before the Council of Government.

I have, &c.

Port Louis,
3rd October 1881.

(Signed) F. NAPIER BROOME,
Lieut.-Governor.

RODRIGUES.

No. 13.

REPORT on the ISLAND OF RODRIGUES (a Dependency of Mauritius) for the Year 1880.

I.—*Taxation.*

No alteration was made during 1880 in the taxation of this Island, beyond a reduction from Rs. 20 to Rs. 10 on game licenses.

II.—*Receipts and Expenditure.*

No.	Heads of Receipts.	1879.		1880.	
		Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1	Land sales and forest produce -	175	99	465	09
2	Customs - - - -	—		80	73
3	Land rent - - - -	1,067	00	1,199	00
4	Pasturage - - - -	1,441	75	959	25
5	Registration dues - - -	12	50	14	00
6	Licenses - - - -	1,490	00	2,492	00
7	Stamps - - - -	127	84	255	69
8	Taxes (horses and dogs) - -	547	00	478	75
9	Postage - - - -	149	60	129	65
10	Fines and forfeitures - - -	436	00	307	50
11	Fees of court - - - -	213	52	210	02
12	Fees of office - - - -	68	00	52	75
13	Sale of Government property - -	3,862	49	344	80
14	School fees - - - -	92	00	57	75
15	Miscellaneous - - - -	118	97	274	94
	Total - - -	9,802	66	7,321	91

There is a decrease in the receipts for 1880 of Rs. 2,480 74 on those for 1879, owing to the increase caused in 1879 by the sale of 300 bags of Government rice. Rate of revenue per head of population in 1880 was Rs. 5 14 against Rs. 6 54 in 1879. (The estimated population of 1879 was 79 in excess, as ascertained by the census of 4th April 1881.)

RODRIGUES.

Expenditure for the past two years:—

No.	Heads of Expenditure.	1879. Rs. c.	1880. Rs. c.
	Salaries.		
1	Magistrate and Postmaster	3,453 20	3,453 32
2	R. C. Chaplain	1,027 73	2,166 58
3	Government Medical Officer	—	657 64
4	School's Department	2,591 88	2,691 96
5	Police and Forest Ranger	5,593 78	5,356 70
6	Hospital servants	—	229 50
7	Scavengers	—	113 80
8	Increment to schoolmaster	100 01	—
	Allowances.		
9	House rent Government Medical Officer	—	245 83
10	Do. Schoolmaster and mistress	360 00	360 00
11	Do. Scavengers	—	8 00
12	Meteorological observations	212 50	168 00
13	Personal allowance sanitary warden	—	100 00
14	Hospital dispenser during epidemic	—	42 50
	Miscellaneous.		
15	Taxation, Crown witnesses	7 50	18 95
16	Commission, sale of postage labels	9 47	—
17	Rent of hospital	—	240 00
18	Hospital sick diets	—	206 68
19	Works and buildings (including sanitary)	2,766 10	2,877 91
20	Repairs to boats and buildings	18 00	67 00
21	Transport	29 50	15 00
22	Prisoners' rations	—	3 76
23	Rations hospital servants and scavengers	—	20 94
24	Passage of paupers to Mauritius	—	30 00
25	Maintenance sick paupers	—	6 00
26	Burial of paupers	1 00	10 00
27	Refund usher's fees criminal cases	—	8 50
	Total	16,170 67	19,098 57

Decrease in expenditure in 1880 over 1879 was Rs. 72 10, but (as in previous year) the above payments do not include those made in Mauritius on account of Rodrigues. Rate of expenditure per head of population in 1880 was Rs. 11 32 against Rs. 10 79 in 1879.

NOTE.—By the census taken on 4th April 1881 it was discovered that an error existed in the estimate of the population last year. The total number of souls here on 31st December 1880 was 1,422 instead of 1,501 the number according to last year's calculation. Therefore this error of 79 will explain why with a decrease of expenditure in 1880 over 1879 the rate per head in the former year should be in excess of the latter.

By the foregoing tables it will be perceived that the expenditure in 1880 was Rs. 8,776 65 in excess of the receipts, but it should be borne in mind that customs duty, paid in Mauritius on all goods imported into this Island does not figure amongst the receipts at

Rodrigues, nor does the Rs. 2,670 paid in Mauritius by Messrs. Wilson & Co. and the Honorable H. Pitot for land leased in this Dependency.

III.—*Criminal Justice.*

The number of offences coming to notice for which persons were prosecuted in 1880 was 73, being an increase of 17 on 1879.

The cases for past two years are classified as follows:—

Before what Court.	Number of Persons					
	Charged.		Convicted.		Acquitted or otherwise. disposed of.	
	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.	1879.	1880.
Police Court - -	55	70	54	52	1 to assizes.	18
Stipendiary Court -	1	3	1	2	—	1

Table of Offences for which Persons were brought before the Courts in 1879 *and* 1880.

Nature of Offences.	Number of Cases.	
	1879.	1880.
Larceny - - - - - - - -	2	3
Possession of stolen property - - - - - -	3	3
Wounds and blows - - - - - - -	1	2
Rape - - - - - - - -	1	—
Perjury - - - - - - - -	1	—
Fictitious writing - - - - - - -	1	—
Carrying offensive weapons - - - - - -	—	2
Swindling - - - - - - - -	—	2
Cruelty to animals - - - - - - -	—	2
Drunkenness - - - - - - - -	13	13
Disturbance - - - - - - - -	3	1
Abusive language - - - - - - - -	—	6
Trespass - - - - - - - -	14	3
Allowing animals to stray - - - - - - -	5	8
Illegally lighting fires - - - - - - -	—	2
Destroying trees on Crown lands and plundering wood - -	1	6
Sanitary offences - - - - - - - -	3	—
Offences against license laws - - - - - -	—	1
Illegally employing engaged servant - - - - -	—	3
Unlawful absence from paternal roof - - - - -	—	2
Refusal of duty by a seaman - - - - - -	—	1
Obstruction of public roads - - - - - -	—	1
Desertion and vagrancy - - - - - - -	1	3

Nationality of Offenders.

Europeans - - -	4
Creoles - - -	53
Indians - - -	8
Malagassees - - -	8
	73

RODRIGUES.

IV.—*Education.*

Table showing number of pupils attending the Government School for the past two years.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1879	47	34	72
1880	29	23	79

On the 20th December 1880 the Police Magistrate held an examination of the scholars. Twenty-nine pupils presented themselves for examination with the following results :—

Class 1.—Five *Pupils* (*average age* 13 *years*).

Five passed in English reading.
Four „ French „
Five „ English dictation.
Four „ French „
Two „ English translation.
Four „ French „
Four „ Arithmetic—1st four rules.
None „ Geography—Europe in general.
None „ Grammar, English.
None „ „ French.
Three „ Writing.

Class 2.—Seven *Pupils* (*average age* 10 *years*).

Two passed in English reading.
Seven „ French „
„ „ English dictation.
Six „ French „
Five „ English translation.
Six „ French „
Four „ Arithmetic, 1st two rules multiplication tables.
Six „ Writing.

Class 3.—Nine *Pupils* (*average age* 8 *years*).

Eight passed in English reading.
Two „ French „
Nine „ English spelling.
„ „ French „
„ „ Arithmetic, counting and writing figures.

Class 4.—Eight *pupils* (*average age* 5 *years*).

Five passed in English alphabet.
„ „ French „

The cost of the School for the past two years has been as under:—

	1879.		1880.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
Salaries of teachers - - - - -	2591	88	2691	96
House rent - - - - - -	360	00	360	00
	2951	88	3051	96
Less school fees received - - -	92	00	57	75
Total cost of school fees - - -	2859	88	2994	21

Annual cost to Government of each pupil Rs. 130 18 as against Rs. 84 11 in 1879.

The school staff comprises one schoolmaster and one schoolmistress.

The school-house is a Government building.

V.—*Post Office.*

The revenue collected during past year at Rodrigues on account of this Department amounted to Rs. 129 65, being as follows: Unpaid letters Rs. 5 17; sale of postage labels Rs. 94 81; commission on money orders Rs. 29 67.

In 1879 Rs. 149 60 was received, being a decrease in 1880 of Rs. 19 95.

Money orders were drawn on Mauritius to the value of Rs. 8,498 20 against Rs. 7,013 08 in 1879, or an increase in 1880 of Rs. 1,468 12.

Money orders drawn on Rodrigues in 1880 amounted to Rs. 287 06 in comparison with Rs. 260 75 in 1879. Increase in 1880 Rs. 26 31.

Letters and newspapers despatched and received during past two years stand thus:—

Year.	Received.		Despatched.	
	Letters.	Newspapers.	Letters.	Newspapers.
1879	644	579	852	4
1880	1,089*	634	1,193†	7

* 8 Registered.
† 41 „

Four hundred and forty-five letters and 55 newspapers were received in 1880 in excess of 1879, while 341 letters and 3 newspapers were despatched in excess of previous year.

RODRIGUES.

VI.—*Public Works.*

Sanitary works of considerable extent were carried out during the year 1880 by order of his Excellency the Governor, the cost of which was Rs. 2,438 36.

No other works were undertaken during the year.

Repairs to boats, sails, buildings, &c. came to Rs. 67.

VII.—*Population.*

The population of the Dependency on 31st December 1880 was 1,422 against 1,498 in 1879.

Taking population on the 31st December 1879 as correct, that on 31st December 1880 would have been 1,501, but by the census taken on April 4th ultimo it was ascertained that an error of 79 existed in estimate of the population before that date.

The population is classified as follows :—

Natives of	America	1
„	Europe	27
„	India	22
„	Africa	11
„	Madagascar	41
„	Siam	1
„	Mauritius	196
„	Rodrigues	1,115
„	Seychelles	6
„	Reunion	2
		1,422

Year.	General Population.			Indian Population.			Total.		Grand Total.
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
1879	844	637	1,481	14	3	17	858	640	1,498
1880	787	613	1,400	21	1	22	808	614	1,422

The occupation of the inhabitants and the numbers employed at each.

Agriculture	475
Commerce	6
Artizans	12
Government servants	17
Fishermen	162
Other callings	76

Unemployed, 674, comprising aged people and young children.

Year.	Births.			Deaths.			Arrivals.			Departures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1879	40	36	76	9	9	18	58	15	73	72	20	92
1880	43	33	76	27	21	48	44	16	60	52	33	85

There were 3 marriages and no still-births in 1880, against 5 marriages and 1 still-birth in 1879. Whilst the births for past two years are equal, the deaths in 1880 are nearly three times as many as in 1879. This is owing to the severe outbreak of fever which raged in the Island from December 1879 to May 1880.

VIII.—*Legislation.*

No special Ordinances were enacted by the Mauritius Government for this Dependency in 1880; but Ordinance No. 12 of 1875 (Vaccination Ordinance) was by Proclamation No. 55 extended to the Island.

IX.—*Prisons.*

Twenty-eight persons were committed during 1880:

For non-payment of fines and costs -	8
„ safe custody till trial - -	2
„ various terms of imprisonment -	18

There is no regular prison staff as yet.

The serjeant-major of police acts as gaoler; and the police constables (of which there are only five) as prison guards. No offences were committed and no escapes took place during the year under review. The only cost of the prisoners was for rations (rice and salt). No value can be assigned to the prison labour of Rodrigues which consists of general cleaning and labourers work about Government premises and the village.

X.—*Establishment.*

The Rodrigues Establishment has cost as follows during past two years:—

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances.	Total.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1879	12,406 60	720 00	13,126 60
1880	15,336 18	773 83	16,110 01

The cost of the Establishment has been increased by the appointment of a medical man, hospital servants, and scavengers. The two latter receive rations and quarters, while the former receives lodging allowance.

RODRIGUES.

XI.—*Trade.*

The imports and exports for past two years stand as follows :—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1879	90,969 00	89,130 00
1880	89,867 00	55,585 00

This shows an decrease in imports for 1880 of Rs. 1,101 50, which may be accounted for by the general depression caused in trade owing to the failure of crops and famine in 1879, and the epidemic of fever raging during the early part of the year.

Exports have a decrease in 1880 of Rs. 33,535 00 due to there being only half the quantity of grain, salt fish, and goats exported, while only nine bullocks left the Island against 225 in 1879. In fact there was a general falling off in all articles of export.

Rates of exports and imports per head of population in last two years :—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1879	60 72	59 49
1880	63 19	39 08

XII.—*Meteorological Observations.*

Daily observations of the barometer, thermometer, winds, and weather were taken during the past year by the D. S. Major of Police and transmitted to the Director of the Observatory at Mauritius. No hurricane was recorded at this Island during 1880.

XIII.—*General Remarks.*

The past year has been a sad one for a large portion of the inhabitants of this Island. An epidemic of fever (typhoid) broke out early in December 1879, just after the departure of the last ship, which made fearful strides, carrying off in six months double the number who died in 1879. No medical man was in the Island, and great consternation prevailed. As soon as intelligence reached Mauritius in April the Assistant Resident Surgeon of the Mauritius Civil Hospital was sent down by his Excellency the Governor with a supply of hospital stores, &c. An hospital was opened and by the month of August the public health began to amend.

At the latter end of May the Sanitary Warden of Port Louis, specially deputed by the Governor, came down and made an inquiry into the sanitary state and requirements of Rodrigues.

The result being that extensive sanitary works were commenced, which were carried on in accordance with special directions from the Governor, and were only completed by the end of the year. Great difficulty (for want of labour) was experienced at the commencement. The labouring class being as a rule averse to manual labour (even at good wages), except under pressure of actual need. As long as a potato or ear of corn is in their possession they seem to prefer to lounge about. This fact so clearly proved last year compels me to reiterate the concluding remarks of my last year's Report that, to make Rodrigues prosperous and useful to Mauritius, a new class of cultivators should be induced to come and settle in the Island, for even with proper roads and other improvements I doubt if the present mountaineers will ever develop the resources of the Dependency.

On 6th of April a large iron barque, the "Cadzow Forest," of Glasgow, bound from Calcutta to Demerara with Coolie stores, went on the reef opposite Port Mathurin. The Government pinnace under command of Pilot Vandorous was sent to Mauritius for assistance to take this fine vessel, which (thanks to the fair weather (was uninjured, out of her dangerous position.

On 22nd April the French man-of-war "Cher," sent by the Government of Bourbon, arrived and towed the ship, which had been previously lightened of a great part of her cargo, to a safe anchorage.

After nearly two years' residence in this beautiful but isolated Island, I am able to repeat with earnestness what I stated last year: that the opening up of roads, the introduction of prison labour from Mauritius, and inducements for a superior class of agriculturists to settle here are absolutely necessary if Rodrigues, the "Isle of Wight" of Mauritius, is ever to become prosperous and a useful adjunct to Mauritius.

In a portion of the report on Rodrigues by the Commander of the "Conway" to the Mauritius Government occurs the follow-passages, with which I will conclude my Report: "When the "Islands of Bourbon and Mauritius were taken from the French "the English troops were for a long time at Rodrigues, and the "British squadron assembled at Mathurin Bay. In those ex-"peditions that Island was most essentially serviceable, also after "the attack on Bourbon, the wounded being sent back for recovery."

Also:

"It is lamentable to see any Colony or Dependency of a Colony "belonging to a country like Great Britain so utterly neglected. "If the Island of Rodrigues is worth keeping possession of, which "it is unquestionably from its position, surely it should not be "debarred from all the blessing and privileges of the mother "country."

Police Magistracy, Rodrigues,
16th June 1881.

J. C. O'HALLORAN,
Police Magistrate.

SEYCHELLES.

SEYCHELLES.

No. 14.

Lieutenant-Governor BROOME, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Mauritius,
July 25, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, the Seychelles Blue Book Returns for 1880, together with the report thereon of the Acting Chief Civil Commissioner, Mr. Cockburn Stewart.

2. The financial transactions of Seychelles during 1880 show an excess on the expenditure side amounting to Rs. 3,493; but the assets of the Dependency still exceeded its liabilities by Rs. 6,554 at the close of the year. The revenue of 1880 was the largest ever collected in the Islands, amounting to Rs. 153,099. In remarking on the excise receipts, Mr. Stewart draws attention to the demoralizing effect of the increased consumption of "bacca," an intoxicating drink made from fermented cane or pineapple juice and a narcotic berry. I understand that the Board of Civil Commissioners are discussing a regulation in this matter; but, as the deaths (including 29 still births) registered during 1880 amongst the population of 14,035 were only 183, to 410 births, it would not appear that the effects of the "bacca" drinking, however demoralizing, are injurious to health. A death rate of 13 per 1,000 in these tropical Islands may be regarded as a very extraordinary fact.

3. Mr. Stewart's remarks on the agriculture of the Islands are deserving of attention. It is to be hoped that the attention of the Seychellors will now be given in greater degree to other industries than cocoa-nut planting. Otherwise, the progress of the cocoa-nut disease, is a very grave menace to the prosperity of the Islands.

4. The defective state of the Gaol at Mahé is noticed by the Acting Chief Civil Commissioner. I have informed Mr. Stewart that this matter should be brought before his board, with a view to providing for any necessary expenditure in next year's estimates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. NAPIER BROOME.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK RETURNS of the SEYCHELLES for 1880. SEYCHELLES.

Government House, Seychelles,
June 6, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book Returns of the Seychelles Island for the year 1880.

I.—*Revenue.*

2. The Revenue of 1880 amounted to Rs. 153,099 and exceeded the Revenue of 1879 by Rs. 7,000.

3. The following table shows the receipts of the last two years, and compares them with an average of the previous five years.

Average for five years ending 31st December 1878.	1879.	1880.
Rs. 134,854	Rs. 145,377	Rs. 153,099

3. It is satisfactory to observe a steady increase in the Revenue, and to note that the total receipts of last year were in excess of any previous year, making the Revenue for 1880 the largest yet collected in Seychelles.

5. The Revenue was levied under the following heads:

	Rs.	cts.
Customs	75,035	92
Quay dues	2,826	01
Warehouse rent	1,650	42
Rent of Government land	1,628	00
Sales of Government property	5,376	55
Rum permits	6,298	27
Rum storage	157	17
Licenses	16,075	10
Stamps	2,945	45
Dog tax	2,605	50
Local rate	24,353	67
Postages	1,460	64
Commission on money orders	383	65
Registration	2,267	67
Fines, fees, and forfeitures of court	5,723	11
Market receipts	1,421	00
Public Hospital	1,134	88
Shipping Master's receipts	286	92
Board of Health and water receipts	428	50
Prison work	94	05
Miscellaneous	947	49
	Rs. 153,099	97

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6. The following table shows the receipts under the heads of Customs and Excise during the last four years.

	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Customs - - - -	65,814	68,456	70,867	75,035
Excise - - - -	20,851	17,022	10,911	6,298
Total - -	86,665	85,478	81,778	81,333

7. It will be observed from this return that a gradual and steady decrease has taken place under the head of Excise duty, owing chiefly to the increase in consumption of rum imported from Mauritius.

8. The quality of the rum made at Seychelles is reported to be most excellent and superior to the rum distilled at Mauritius, but it does not seem to find favour with the inhabitants of the Dependency; I believe however that the principal cause of the decreased consumption is owing to the manufacture and sale of "bacca" the juice of the sugar cane or the pineapple fermented and mixed with a berry found here strongly impregnated with narcotic poison. This horrible stuff can be made and procured anywhere at little or no expense, and its effects are most demoralizing.

9. On the other hand the receipts from Custom duties are steadily increasing.

10. It will be observed that the yield of the local rate maintains its tendency to increase.

	Rs.
In 1877 - - - -	20,581
„ 1878 - - - -	20,780
„ 1879 - - - -	21,863
„ 1880 - - - -	24,358

II.—*Expenditure.*

11. The total expenditure for the year 1880 amounted to Rs. 156,593, of which Rs. 3,493 is in excess of the actual Revenue collected, and exceeded the estimated revenue by Rs. 14,371.

12. This increase over estimated revenue is due to entirely abnormal and unforeseen circumstances, and it should be observed that of the amount exceeded, viz., Rs. 14,371, so much as Rs. 6,730 was paid by order of the Supreme Court to the owner of a vessel which had been illegally seized in 1878.

III.—*Assets and Liabilities.*

13. The subjoined table shows the exact financial position of the Dependency at the beginning of this year and establishes the

balance in favour of Seychelles at Rs. 6,554 after clearing off all liabilities.

14. Statement showing the liabilities and assets of the Government of Seychelles on the 31st December 1880.

Liabilities.	Rs. cts.	*Assets.*	Rs. cts.
Total amount of expenditure to 31st December 1880 - - -	156,593 64	By balance of Cash on 1st January 1880 -	16,958 53
Balance in favour of Assets - - -	13,464 86	Total amount of receipts to 31st December 1880	153,099 97
	170,058 50		170,058 50
To Government of Mauritius Balance of Account for 4th quarter of 1880 -	6,844 95	Balance as per contra -	13,464 86
Money order for ditto -	6,636 22	Government of Mauritius -	6,570 67
	13,481 17		
Balance in favour of Assets - - -	6,554 36		
	20,035 53		20,035 53

IV.—*Imports and Exports.*

15. The following statement shows the value of the imports and exports during the last five years.

Imports.

	Rs.
1877 - - - - -	433,528
1878 - - - - -	555,574
1879 - - - - -	379,846
1880 - - - - -	444,663

Exports.

1877 - - - - -	438,206
1878 - - - - -	490,321
1879 - - - - -	343,321
1880 - - - - -	412,382

16. I believe that there is no decrease in the imports and exports of Seychelles, and that the figures quoted for 1877–1878 are erroneous, inasmuch as (as pointed out by Captain Havelock in his Blue Book Report for 1879) the valuation placed on cocoanut oil was higher than was ever given in previous years, and a higher valuation on rice has also been given.

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17. The following table shows the quantity and value of cocoa-nut oil exported during the seven years from 1874 to 1880.

Year.	Quantity in Gallons.	Value.
		Rs.
1874 - - - -	242,350	259,738
1875 - - - -	217,350	234,473
1876 - - - -	284,962	307,768
1877 - - - -	270,792	365,572*
1878 - - - -	291,090	356,920
1879 - - - -	266,577	288,770
1880 - - - -	304,016	304,016

18. It should be noticed that the exports for 1880 include 1,800 kilos. or about 3,600 lbs. of vanilla, 459 kilos. or 968 lbs. of cocoa, and 5,000 lbs. of coffee.

V.—*Shipping.*

19. The number of vessels that entered Port Victoria during 1880 was 195, with a tonnage of 92,744 tons. This gives an increase of 108 vessels and 6,153 tons tonnage over 1879.

20. Fourteen of Her Majesty's ships, and eight French men-of-war arrived during the year.

21. The American whalers have almost entirely deserted these seas and only one arrived during 1880.

VI.—*Population and Vital Statistics.*

22. The census taken on the 4th of April last establishes the total population of these Islands at 14,035, showing an increase of population over 1871, when the last census was taken, of 2,827 souls.

23. The total population of Mahé in 1871 was 8,906 as against 11,393, the present number of the inhabitants.

24. The African population is ascertained to be 2,029.

25. The number of births and deaths registered were respectively 410 and 183.

26. The male births were 194 and the female 216, of these 198 were legitimate and 210 illegitimate.

27. Excluding still-births, the birth rate was $29\frac{4}{14}$ per thousand, in 1879 the rate was 35·52 per thousand.

28. The death-rate (still-births, not included) was $13\frac{1}{14}$ per thousand, a rate considerably below that of previous years.

29. In 1879 - - - it was 19·78 per thousand
„ 1878 - - - „ 25·02 „ „
„ 1877 - - „ 18·04 „ „

The total number of still-births during 1880 was 20.

30. The number of marriages celebrated was 81, of which two were "in *articulo mortis*."

31. In 1879 the total number was 120 and in 1878, 83.

* In 1877 and 1878 a higher valuation was given than in other years.

VII.—*Agriculture.*

32. It is computed that an extent of about 12,000 acres of land in Seychelles is planted with cocoanuts, the staple produce of these Islands. I regret to say that a disease has of late years manifested itself in the cocoanut trees and threatens to spread. Energetic steps are however being taken to prevent it extending further.

33. The appearance of this disease has however, at last, turned the attention of the inhabitants to the fact that Seychelles is one of the finest spice producing countries in the world, and that the cultivation of vanilla, cocoa, cloves and coffee is more remunerative than cocoanuts, though requiring greater attention.

34. There are now 150 acres of vanilla in growth, 100 acres of cocoa, 150 acres of cloves, and a large extent of coffee.

35. The samples of Seychelles grown vanilla and cocoa obtained the first prizes at the International Exhibition of Paris in 1878, and have been pronounced by the best judges in Europe to be unsurpassed in quality.

36. An average vanilla plantation, or "vanillerie" as it is called here, is about five acres in extent, and at a moderate computation represents a production of 250 lbs. of vanilla per acre. A clear profit of Rs. 10 the lb., after deducting all expenses of planting and shipping, may be accepted as a fair calculation, thus giving a profit of Rs. 2,500 an acre.

37. Land well suited for vanilla and cocoa growing is abundant and can be purchased at present very cheaply, but it is already being taken up and the price is going up.

38. The Liberian coffee obtained from Kew three years ago has grown remarkably well and the tree appears to be well adapted to the soil of these Islands.

39. Pepper grows wild. It has never been attempted to cultivate this spice though many of the native households use it.

40. I regret to observe that the Valley of Cocos de Mer trees at Praslin, the property of Government, has been much neglected, but steps have now been taken to preserve this interesting and unique ravine planted entirely with Cocos de Mer trees indigenous to these Islands, and I believe unknown in any other part of the world.

41. The principal timber trees which grow on these Islands are the Capucin, Sederoxylon species, Takamaka, "Colopyllum inophyllum," Bois de fer, "Dipterocarpus species," Cayac, "Afzelia bejuga," Badamier, "Terminalia Badamia," Bois de Table, "Henletia Litoralis," and Bois de Natte, "Imbricaria petiolaris," all these trees grow well in Seychelles and the wood is valuable. The Bois de Natte wood makes beautiful furniture and almost rivals the finest mahogany.

42. The Capucin wood is hard and almost indestructible either by water or atmosphere. The Takamaka is excellently adapted to all purposes of ships and boat building.

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43. Mr. Horne, the Director of the Botanical Gardens, Mauritius, in writing of this tree says, "The exudation from the "stem is the Tacamahaca resin of commerce. Its seeds yield "the bitter oil of India, which is said to be worth 90*l.* per ton."

VIII.—*Public Works and Roads.*

44. The only works which were executed during 1880 were the building of a board room for the Civil Commissioners, a stable for Government House, and a bridge on the north-east road.

45. The main coast road was extended 295 yards towards the north-east, two streets in Port Victoria were enlarged, and the existing roads repaired.

46. There are only 24 miles of road in Mahé, 8 miles of which are practicable for carriages and carts; the interior of the country is unopened and communication from one point of the Island to another is carried on by boat or canoe.

47. In Praslin there are no roads, nor are there any in La Digue, Félicité, or Curieuse Islands.

IX.—*Post Office.*

48. The following statement shows the transaction of the Seychelles Post Office during the last three years.

Particulars.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Number of ordinary letters despatched	6,219	6,286	7,144
„ registered letters despatched	517	469	487
„ books	162	130	165
„ samples	113	21	23
„ post cards	—	—	27
„ ordinary letters received	6,384	6,465	7,249
„ registered	261	252	286
„ newspapers	13,017	11,133	10,391
„ books	350	538	268
„ samples	21	37	73
„ post cards	10	6	6
„ money orders issued	63	117	76
Amount of „ Rs.	2,411 00	6,786 50	3,588 00
Number of „ received	42	22	16
Amount „ Rs.	1,888 50	1,370 50	524 50
Value of post stamps sold	2,214 00	1,940 00	1,472 00
„ stamped entrances	19 75	—	4 78
„ post cards	—	—	5 90
Amount received on unpaid letters	93 38	73 72	75 76

X.—*Registration.*

49. It is interesting to note from the subjoined statements that a great increase has taken place during the last two years in the number of deeds registered in the Dependency, and shows the

necessity for the establishment of a mortgage office, which has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

Year.	No. of Deeds registered.	Number of Folios written.	Amount of Fees received.
			Rs.
1878 - - -	588	128	1,700
1879 - - -	807	131	1,439
1880 - - -	908	206	2,212

50. The increase in the number of deeds last year is due to several important sales of property having taken place during that year.

51. The marked increase in the number of folios written is due to the important parts of deeds being given more in detail than in former years.

XI.—*Criminal Justice.*

52. There were 564 persons tried before the District Court, which, with 232 stipendiary cases, make a total during 1880 of 796 cases as compared with 997 in 1879 and 1,266 in 1878.

53. Of these cases, other than stipendiary, 405 were minor offences, leaving 159 cases of crime.

54. Of the 159 cases of crime, 122 were cases of larceny not of an aggravated character.

55. Of the 37 crimes of a serious character, there were 30 convictions and 7 acquittals.

56. Of the sentences awarded, 17 were of 1 year, 6 of 2 years, 1 of 3 years, 1 of 4 years, 4 of 5 years, and 1 of 10 years.

XII.—*Prison.*

57. The number of persons committed during 1880 was 418, in 1879 it was 401 ; of these 418 committals, 194 were for non-payment of fines and costs, and 245 for penal offences.

58. The average daily number of prisoners was 64 as against 53 in 1879, and 57 in 1878.

59. There were 37 admissions to hospital, and one death.

60. The cost of maintenance per prisoner amounted to Rs. 103.

61. The gaol is perfectly unsuited to any proper system of discipline or penal labour.

62. The prisoners are locked up at night in two wards, the average cubic feet of air per prisoner being 275 feet against 600, which, I believe, is the space required in England.

63. It speaks well for the healthiness of the Island that, in spite of this, the health of the prisoners is very good.

64. Penal labour is unknown, separation and classification are unknown and impossible in existing circumstances.

65. No attempt has been made towards providing any education for the prisoners, and no religious services were held during the year either by the Civil Chaplain or by Roman Catholic Priests.

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66. The state of the Gaol has been brought to the notice of the Government, and it is hoped that the present state of things will soon be remedied.

67. The rations issued to the prisoners are excessive, and constitute, in my opinion, a premium upon crime. Each prisoner receives a ration of 1½ lbs. of rice per diem which is ½ lb. more than labourers on estates are allowed by law.

XIII.—*Public Hospital and Dispensary.*

68. This Institution is a credit to the Dependency, and compares most favourably with any hospital in Mauritius.

69. The following is the number of patients in hospital during 1880:—

Number of patients admitted in 1880 -	117
Number at close of 1879 - - -	10
	127
Number remaining at close of 1880 -	10
Number of deaths in 1880 - - -	7
,, discharged cured - -	110
	127
Number of patients treated at the dispensary	2,390
Amount of fees for hospital treatment received - - - - Rs.	1,134 88
Cost of hospital rations - - - Rs.	823 74

70. The most common diseases were — Anæmia, rheumatism, syphilis, dysentery, and ulcers.

71. The Hospital is under the charge of the Government Medical Officers, and the cooking and washing is performed by the Sisters of Charity belonging to the order of the Sacred Heart established here.

XIV.—*Legislation.*

72. There were four Regulations passed during the year by the Board of Civil Commissioners, duly confirmed by the Governor:—

I. A Regulation giving the Estimates for 1881 the force of Law.

II. A Regulation regulating the Medical Treatment of African Labourers.

III. A Regulation amending and consolidating the Laws on Licenses.

IV. A Regulation relating to Public Health.

73. In addition to these Regulations the following Ordinances relating to Seychelles were passed by the Council of Government in Mauritius.

74. Ordinance 5 of 1880, regulating tariff of Customs duties expressed in the metric system.

75. Ordinance 13 of 1880, relative to the Civil Status Officer, Praslin.

76. There were also three Proclamations, six of 1880 extending Ordinances 2 and 3 of 1876, regulating measures of length, weight, and capacity, to Seychelles, and 12 of 1880 extending the Fishery Ordinances.

77. Proclamation 21 of 1880 proclaims certain additional prisons at Mahé.

XV.—*Education.*

78. There were 12 schools examined during last year, being four more than in 1878, five more than in 1877, and seven more than in 1876.

79. Of these 12 schools seven are under the control of the Roman Catholic Mission and are attended by 653 pupils; and five are under the Church of England and are attended by 200 pupils.

80. A sum of Rs. 5,000 was paid in grants by Government and was distributed as follows:—

	Rs.
Roman Catholic Church - -	3,862 18
Church of England - -	1,137 82

XVI.—*Leper Establishment.*

81. At Ile Curieuse there remain seven lepers, of whom two are women.

82. I can find no record of any medical supervision during the past year, owing, no doubt, to the want of a medical man at Praslin. I have reported specially on this subject.

83. There are 80 Islands under the control of the Seychelles Administration, including the Amirantes, the Cosmoledo group, Astove, and Aldabra.

84. The want of communication with these Islands is much felt, and it will be indispensable ere long to provide for regular and periodical visits to these Islands, not only in the interests of justice, but also for the purpose of developing trade and agriculture.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. COCKBURN STEWART,
Acting Chief Civil Commissioner.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary,
Mauritius.

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No. 15.

Governor Sir J. R. LONGDEN, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
October 11, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of Ceylon for 1880, and to submit the following report on its contents.

2. The continued effect of leaf disease on the main staple of the Island and the general depression of trade have, as was to be expected, prejudicially affected the Colonial revenue, and necessitated the utmost vigilance and economy in the regulation of the expenditure, The Government has, however, in spite of a falling revenue, been able to meet its liabilities from the resources at its disposal, and the financial position of the Colony is still sound, while it is gratifying to add that the extension of the cultivation of other products besides coffee, and especially of cinchona and tea, has been prosecuted with a vigour which gives reasonable hope of a material improvement in the not distant future.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue for 1880 amounted to Rs. 13,849,127 12, or at the par officially adopted for purposes of comparison with former years to 1,298,355*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.*, showing a decrease of Rs. 899,548 79, or 84,332*l.* 14*s.* 0½*d.* on the revenue for 1879. The expenditure on the votes of the year amounted to Rs. 14,264,490 4½ or 1,337,295*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, being Rs. 423,347 43½ or 39,688*l.* 16*s.* 5¾*d.* less than the corresponding expenditure for, the preceding year. In addition to this expenditure there was expended during the year a sum of Rs. 68,997 13 from unexpended balances of votes of previous years brought forward for expenditure in 1880, and the further sum of Rs. 144,566 21 under the Surplus Funds Ordinance, No. 13 of 1879. The total expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 14,478,053 38½. or 1,357,317*l.* 10*s.* 1¼*d.* and the expenditure on the votes of the year exceeded the revenue by a sum of Rs. 415,362 92½*d.*, to which should be added the sum of Rs. 60,304 73 brought forward from the votes of the year for expenditure in 1881, making in all an excess of Rs. 475,667 65½ which was provided from the cash balance to the credit of the Government.

4. The following are the principal items of increase and decrease.

Revenue.

5. Under customs there is an increase of Rs. 10,280 39 in the amount of royalty levied at the Custom House on exported plumbago. Land sales exhibit a decrease of Rs. 185,795 18, consequent on the general financial depression. In land revenue there is a falling off under the sub-head paddy of Rs. 23,486 67½, which is attributable to a partial failure of crop in the North-western Province, owing to drought. Licenses show a decrease of Rs. 28,501 33 under arrack, rum, and toddy, and Rs. 40,992 under retail of salt, which is due to the sales in the Northern Province having been managed in Aumanai. There is a deficiency of Rs. 66,218 60 under the heading general stamps, and an increase of Rs. 22,825 75 under the heading of judical fines. Sale of Government property shows increases of Rs. 88,545 96 under the sub-head salt, and Rs. 48,841 77½ under timber, while the decrease of Rs. 634,866 14½ under Colonial store is explained by the fact that on the introduction at the beginning of 1879 of the new method, which has already been reported to your Lordship, of accounting for the issue and receipt of stores, credit was taken for the value of the stores then in stock. There is a casual increase of Rs. 115,584 62 under pearl fishery, and the item of Rs. 27,291 67 under telegraph receipts is accounted for by the transfer of the telegraphs from the Indian to the Ceylon Government on 1st July 1880. Railway receipts show a decrease in spite of the opening of the Matale line towards the close of the year of Rs. 354,482 70, which is principally owing to a diminution in goods traffic caused by shortness of the coffee crop and the consequent depression of trade.

Expenditure.

6. On establishments which includes certain contingencies and allowances besides fixed and provisional salaries there is a decrease of Rs. 197,376 45, of which the details are shown in the comparative statement furnished by the Auditor-General and appearing in the Blue Book, while on services exclusive of establishment there is a net decrease of Rs. 225,970 98½, revenue services. The increase of Rs. 94,277 4½ under this head is due partly to an increase of expenditure on the pearl fishery and forest department and partly to the transfer to this head of certain charges hitherto classified under establishments. Administration of justice shows an increase of Rs. 110,935 32 which is mainly due to the transfer to this heading of items such as salaries of village tribunal presidents and transport of fiscals, judicial offices, and their establishments from the headings "Miscellaneous" and "Transport." Education exhibits an increase of Rs. 70,092 86, which is partly attributable to the inclusion of expenditure hitherto brought to account under "Transport" and "Rent." A similar observation is applicable to the increases under hospitals and sanitation, and police and prison services and conveyance of mails, and explains the decrease of Rs. 36,478 8 under rent and Rs. 150,280 11 under transport, and Rs. 44,405 95 under

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miscellaneous services. It became necessary during the year to send the "Screndib" to Bombay for repairs and to hire another vessel to take her place, which accounts for the increase of Rs. 18,160 38 under Government vessels. The decrease of Rs 645,936 43½ under roads, streets, bridges, and canals is due to necessary reduction of expenditure under this head, and that of Rs. 150,000 under railway construction to its not having been possible to appropriate any funds to this service in the estimates of the year. Railway services: the increase of Rs. 216,125 73 under this head is attributable to the additional payment of interest on account of the loans raised for the construction of the Matale and Nanu Oya lines. The transfer of the telegraphs to the Ceylon Government explains the item of Rs. 88,659-40 under the heading "Electric Telegraph."

Assets and Liabilities.

7. The Assets of the Ceylon Government on December 31st 1880 amounted to Rs. 9,478,023 61, or 888,564*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, and the liabilities on the same date to Rs. 8,092,452 23¼, or 758,667*l.* 7*s.* 11¼*d.*, and there was thus an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 1,385,571 37¾, or 129,897*l.* 6*s.* 3¾*d.*

8. The debt of the Colony on the same date amounted to 1,369,660*l.* 19*s.*, consisting of 350,000*l.*, being balance of the 700,000*l.* raised under the Ordinances Nos. 9 of 1862 and 7 of 1864 for the construction of the railway from Colombo to Kandy, 200,000*l.*, being the amount due on debentures issued under Ordinance No. 1 of 1876 for the improvement of the harbour of Colombo, 119,660*l.* 19*s.*, being the sum of 125,000*l.* borrowed from the Public Works Loan Commissioners for the same purpose less 5,339*l.* 1*s.* repaid, 275,000*l.*, being the amount due on debentures issued under Ordinance No. 8 of 1877 for the construction of the railway from Kandy to Matale, and 425,000*l.*, being the amount due on debentures issued under Ordinance No. 9 of 1878 for the construction of the railway from Nawalapitiya to Nanu Oya. The repayment of these loans is secured on the revenues of the Colony, and the sinking fund of that first-mentioned had a sum of 287,606*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* to its credit at the end of 1880.

Imports and Exports.

9. Exclusive of specie in each case the imports of the year were valued at Rs. 47,387,247 2 and the exports at Rs. 50,426.211 92, showing respectively an increase of Rs. 3,089,783 15, and a decrease of Rs.1,569,330 46 in comparison with the similar totals for 1879. Adding the value of specie imported and exported the imports amounted to Rs. 53,477,129 27 and the exports to Rs. 50,587,891 92, giving a gross total of Rs. 104,065,021 19, as against Rs. 106,563,978 25 for the previous year.

Imports.

10. Cotton goods, twist and thread, show a total value of Rs. 7,280,308, and a collection of duty on the quantity cleared of Rs. 262,889, being an increase of Rs. 30,585 on the amount co-

lected in 1879. There are slight increases on nearly all the items included under the heading food articles, and there is a large decrease of 1,609,662 bushels in the quantity of grain imported for home consumption. Live stock and manures show decreases of Rs. 501,423 and Rs. 332,547 respectively. The other items call for no remark except that the increase in the quantity of cement exclusive of that imported as Government stores is due to a larger use of this article on Government works which are supplied by contractors rather than to an increased activity in private building operations.

Exports.

11. Areca nuts show an increase of 42,752 cwts., valued at Rs. 300,581, cocoanut oil an increase of 134,090 cwts. and Rs. 1,668,675 in value, copperah an increase of 27,899 cwts., valued at Rs. 382,838, citronella oil an increase in value of Rs. 66,178, plumbago an increase of 43,243 cwts. and Rs. 432,428 in value, timber an increase of Rs. 190,925 in value, and unmanufactured tobacco an increase of 2,979 cwts. and Rs. 839,057 in value, cinchona bark is credited with an increase of 654,621 lbs. valued at Rs. 748,056, and tea with an increase of 81,082 lbs., valued at Rs. 65,412, but coffee shows a decrease under plantation, of 113,482 cwts., valued at Rs. 6,626,420, and under native a decrease of 9,661 cwts. valued at Rs. 328,473. It will thus be seen that save as regards coffee, the returns are of a satisfactory character. The large falling off in the production of coffee is attributed to unfavourable weather and the continued effects of leaf disease for which no permanent cure has as yet been discovered. There was a fair promise of crop in blossom during the year but the trees failed to mature it, and I regret to say that the results for 1880–81 exhibit a still further falling off, but I am glad to be able to add that there can be little doubt that the coming crop for 1881–82 will show a decided improvement.

Shipping.

12. As compared with 1879 there is an increase of 188,264 tons inwards and of 148,543 tons outwards.

Public Works.

13. The expenditure of the Public Works Department, including the sums contributed for grant-in-aid roads under the Ordinance and other road contributions was Rs. 3,854,855 36 being Rs 1,059,144 28½, or about 21½ per cent. under that of 1879. The cost of the establishment, including salaries fixed and provisional, allowances, and office contingencies, but exclusive of transport and other general charges, of which the details are given under the heading departmental charges, and miscellaneous amounted to Rs. 336,054 38. The subjoined tables exhibit: (1.) A classification of the expenditure under the headings of establishment construction, upkeep, repair and improvement of roads, bridges, buildings, and irrigation works, and departmental and miscellaneous charges; (2.) The funds from which the expenditure has been met;

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(3.) The expenditure incurred in the several provinces; and (4.) An abstract of expenditure on the various classes of public works in each of the provinces of the Island.

(1.)

	1880.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts
Establishment, including allowances and contingencies	336,054 38	433,114 13	—	97,059 75
Upkeep of roads, bridges, canals, and irrigation works	1,816,222 35	1,803,435 39¾	12,786 95¼	—
Repairs of buildings	92,944 30½	98,525 62¼	—	5,581 31¾
Departmental charges and miscellaneous	288,694 15½	393,577 52¼	—	104,883 36¾
New works and buildings	316,399 65	431,075 17¾	—	114,675 52¾
Alterations and additions to buildings	50,430 57	88,164 54	—	37,733 97
New roads and additions to roads	568,266 38	1,219,562 08	—	651,295 70
New bridges	94,289 11	95,922 17¼	—	1,633 06¼
Inland navigation	—	16,179 98	—	16,179 98
Irrigation works	291,554 46	334,443 62¼	—	42,888 56¼
Total	3,854,855 36	4,913,999 04½	12,786 95¼	1,071,931 23¾

(2.)

	1880.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Supply Bill, 1830	3,108,875 21½	3,650,547 47½	—	541,672 26
Supplementary Supply Bill, 1880	65,591 72½	279,103 32¾	—	213,511 60¼
Unexpended balances of previous years	77,878 67	328,661 38½	—	250,782 71½
Road Ordinance funds	236,254 98	254,487 63	—	18,232 65
Private contribution	196,766 01	392,597 82½	—	195,831 81½
Loan board funds	8,039 66	2,458 00¼	5,581 65¾	—
From other departments	11,436 28	6,144 00	5,292 28	—
Surplus funds	49,681 16	—	49,681 16	—
From vote for Colombo waterworks	100,331 66	—	100,331 66	—
Total	3,854,855 36	4,913,999 64½	160,886 75¾	1,220,031 04¼

(3.)

	1880.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Western Province	1,204,778 30½	1,375,910 27¾	—	171,131 97¼
North-western Province	240,853 88½	301,879 07¾	—	61,025 19¼
Southern Province	295,037 51	357,556 19½	—	62,518 68½
Eastern Province	269,337 94	335,076 45¼	—	65,738 51¼
Northern Province	202,659 54	271,491 18¼	—	68,831 64¼
North Central Province	187,703 11	311,716 07	—	124,012 96
Central Province	1,454,485 07	1,960,370 39	—	505,885 32
Total	3,854,855 36	4,913,999 64½	—	1,059,144 28½

(4.)

Heads of Service.	Western Province.	North-western Province.	Southern Province.	Eastern Province.	Northern Province.	North Central Province.	Central Province.	Total.
Works and Buildings.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
New works and buildings	116,387 71	24,547 91	10,189 10	10,684 98	*350 56* 1,998 72	*128 22* 17,895 5	134,217 40	*478 78* 315,920 87
Alterations and additions to buildings	19,537 75	374 0	8,553 53	8,663 64	2,010 41	447 94	134,217 40	49,770 57
Repairs to buildings	28,938 48½	6,720 87	18 668 40	5,397 57	10,663 7	3,447 26	19,268 65	93,104 30½
Roads, Streets, Bridges, and Canals.							*86,057 56*	*86,057 56*
New roads	124,523 85	- - -	- - -	- - -	9,992 15	- - -	304,935 11	439,451 11
Additions and improvements to roads	3,087 53	990 7	2,941 34	*2,987 54* 13,775 50	3,749 24	1,330 37	*2,904 12* 4,892 55	*5,891 66* 30,766 60
Upkeep of roads	*74,255 40* 344,031 30	*37.049 25* 71,961 38	*31,414 80* 134,461 74	*6,716 33* 71,056 96	*29,388 86* 80,699 66	*7,278 16* 38,361 45	*144,261 15* 612,553 86	*330,363 95* 1,353,126 35
New bridges	76,420 97	- - -	4,999 61	- - -	11,991 11	- - -	- - -	93,411 69
Repair of bridges	13,641 26	12,291 51	9,755 97	3,403 31	3,191 72	7,898 85	*279 73* 7,467 42	*279 73* 57,650 4
Inland navigation	*8,564 6* 14,267 95	*1,385 25* 24,044 19	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	*9,949 31* 38,312 14
Irrigation Works.								
New works	10,709 65	21,836 79	36,342 70	107,741 97	24,264 61	74,734 64	15,924 10	291,554 46
Upkeep works	791 47	3,843 14	12,252 38	8,896 39	- - -	6,534 83	1,199 49	33,517 70
Departmental Charges.								
Ferry boats	2,147 1	- - -	- - -	93 96	- - -	- - -	- - -	2,240 97
General Service	12,496 81	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1,973 31	14,470 12
Miscellaneous	207,760 15	14,822 80½	6,420 57	5,425 97	5,828 54	4,903 76	27,321 27	272,483 6½
	82,819 46 974,741 89½	*38,434 50* 181,432 66½	*31,414 80* 244,585 34	*9,703 87* 235,140 25	*29,739 42* 154,389 23	*7,406 38* 155,554 15	*233,502 56* 1,139,936 46	*433,020 99* 3,085,779 99
Establishment	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	336,054 38
Total Rs.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	*433,020 99* 3,421,834 37

The figures in *Italic* denote expenditure under the Road Ordinance Funds and Private Contribution.

14. The Queen's Houses at Colombo and the Pavilion, Kandy, are reported to be in good order except as regards the roofs, which require repair, and the cloth ceilings, which require replacing. The furniture of the Queen's House, Colombo, and the Pavilion, Kandy, is reported by the Colonial Storekeeper to be in suitable condition. The furniture at the Cottage, Nuwara Eliya, is not provided at the public expense. It may be convenient to note here, in reference to the regulations lately issued as to Government houses and furniture, that the furniture includes, besides the usual furniture of the reception rooms and bedrooms, crockery, glass, cutlery, and kitchen utensils, but not plate or table ornaments.

Breakwater.

15. The breakwater was lengthened during the year by 793½ feet of sea wall and 409 feet of harbour wall, at a cost of Rs. 876,824 94.

Survey Department.

16. The sale of Crown lands is reported by the Surveyor-General to have realized Rs. 651,862, including fees, of which 566,689 was brought to account during the year. The rate

CEYLON.

realised per acre for land sold to Europeans was Rs. 28·71 and Rs. 22·91 for land sold to natives. The gross expenditure of the department from its own votes amounted to Rs. 385,840 91 of which Rs. 54,069 85 was expended on Chena, railway and forest surveys, and other work not directly reproductive, leaving the sum of Rs. 331,771 6 as the cost of the ordinary work of surveying lands for sale and settlement. In the following tables will be found the details of the lots alienated in the several provinces; an abstract of the lands disposed of to Europeans and Natives respectively, and a return of all lands disposed of in each province during the year.

ABSTRACT showing the Number of LOTS, ACREAGE, PURCHASE AMOUNT, and FEES of LANDS sold or otherwise alienated from the Crown in the respective PROVINCES during the year.

Provinces.	Lots sold and granted at Half Value.					Lots settled on Certificates, Free Grants, &c.			Total Receipt for each Province.
	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Purchase Amount.	Average Rate per Acre.	Fees.	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	
		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.		A. R P.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Central - -	226	8,060 1 8·50	273,003 76	33 87	13,738 80	127	245 3 18·50	805 20	287,547 76
Western -	1,696	7,614 2 36	204,519 94	26 85	19,612 40	1,281	2,303 0 29	7,341 90	*231,474 24
Eastern - -	227	1,582 1 22·35	17,229 35	10 89	3,479 40	13	12 0 32	50 0	20,758 75
Southern -	837	2,447 3 16·23	42,163 99	17 22	6,863 50	17	35 1 28	110 0	49,137 49
Northern -	97	444 1 0	5,656 0	12 74	1,193 10	—	—	—	6,849 10
North-western	285	2,365 1 26	42,252 50	17 86	5,536 10	16	27 2 4	82 50	47,871 10
North Central	45	339 0 9	4,616 0	13 61	865 40	—	—	—	5,481 40
Temple lands, showing fees due on title plans issued	—	—	—	—	—	11	6,141 0 21	2,264 35	—
Fees actually recovered on account of Temple land title plans -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	226 20
Fees for tracings, &c. -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,516 34	2,516 34
Total -	3,413	22,853 3 38·08	589,441 54	25 79	51,288 70	1,465	8,765 1 12·50	13,170 29	651,862 38

ABSTRACT of LANDS sold and granted and otherwise disposed of to EUROPEANS and NATIVES in 1880.

Provinces.	Europeans.			Natives.		
	Lots.	Extent.	Amount and Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount. and Fees
		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.
Central - - -	122	7,565 1 1·50	270,693 46	231	740 3 25·50	16,854 30
Western - - -	86	2,205 0 39	30,188 97	2.891	7,712 2 26	*101,285 27
Eastern - - -	18	839 2 33·75	9,977 0	222	754 3 21	10,781 75
Southern - - -	6	200 1 19	3,451 40	848	2,282 3 25	45,686 9
Northern - -	—	—	—	97	444 1 0	6,849 10
North-western - -	33	433 3 1	8,663 30	268	1,959 0 29	39,207 80
North Central - -	—	—	—	45	339 0 9	5,481 40
Total - -	265	11,244 1 14·25	322,974 13	4,602	14,233 3 15·50	326,145 71

* Including enas.

RETURN of LANDS sold or otherwise disposed of during the year.

Provinces.	Crown Lands sold.				Encroachments sold or given at a Valuation.				Granted at Half Value.				Old Grants or Grants made in terms of the Minute of 8th Aug. 1844.			Free Grants or Settlements for Certificates against the Crown.			Total Results of Sales, &c. of each Province during the year 1880.				
	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Amount including Fees.
		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.		Acres.	Rs.		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Central - -	205	7,990	271,888	13,543	10	16	524	55	11	54	591	141	—	—	—	127	246	805	353	8,306	273,003	14,544	287,547
Western - -	1,561	7,363	197,136	18,817	—	—	—	—	135	251	7,383	794	—	—	—	1,281	2,303	7,342	2,977	9,917	204,519	26,955	*231,474
Eastern - -	159	1,390	16,105	2,920	13	119	892	286	55	74	232	274	—	—	—	13	12	50	240	1,595	17,229	3,530	20,759
Southern - -	398	1,788	34,162	4,674	413	637	7,538	2,102	26	23	464	88	—	—	—	17	35	110	854	2,483	42,164	6,974	49,138
Northern - -	97	444	5,656	1,193	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	97	444	5,656	1,193	6,849
North-western -	259	2,289	41,324	5,318	—	—	—	—	26	76	929	218	—	—	—	16	27	82	301	2,392	42,253	5,618	47,871
North Central -	45	339	4,616	865	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	339	4,616	865	5,481
Fees actually recovered on Temple land title plans in 1880 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	226
Fees for tracings, &c. - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,516
Total - -	2,724	21,603	570,887	47,329	436	772	8,953	2,443	253	478	9,599	1,515	—	—	—	1,454	2,623	8,389	4,867	25,476	589,440	59,679	651,861

* Including Chenas.

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Railway.

17. The line from Kandy to Matale was opened on the 4th of October 1880, bringing the total railway mileage of the Colony open for public traffic, and exclusive of the line for the carriage of materials for the Colombo Harbour works, to 136¾ miles showing an addition of 17½ miles to the corresponding mileage for the preceding year. The total receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 3,013,701 72, of which there was brought to credit within the year Rs. 3,010,658 95, or Rs. 354,482 70 less than the corresponding receipts in 1879, and the working expenses, exclusive of expenditure on new works, to Rs. 1,367,597 against Rs. 1,424,461 for the previous year. The main line showed a profit on receipts over working expenses of about 8 per cent. on the capital expenditure, the branch line to Nawalapitiya a profit of about five per cent., the coast line to Kalutara a profit of about 3 per cent., and the branch line to Matale, open for less than three months, a profit of about ¾ per cent.

Legislation.

18. The following Ordinances were passed during the year.

No. 1. To authorise the establishment of a special cemetery for the burial of the dead of the Mohammedan community.

No. 2. To amend the Postal Ordinance, 1878.

No. 3. Relating to shipwrecked Colonial seamen in distress in the United Kingdom.

No. 4. To repeal the Ordinance No. 8 of 1869, intituled "An "Ordinance to discourage the illicit sale of wine, arrack, rum or "spirits, and to make other provision in lieu thereof."

This Ordinance was introduced to assimilate the penaltv on licensed distillers for illicit sale of spirits to that prescribed in the case of other similar offenders.

No. 5. For making provision for the contingent services for the year 1881.

No. 6. For the regulation and government of boatmen employed in licensed boats.

No. 7. To amend the Police Ordinance, 1865.

This Ordinance provides for the recovery of the cost of the police in certain cases where it had been inadvertently omitted to provide for such recovery.

No. 8. To amend the Stamp Ordinance 1871.

This Ordinance prescribes the manner in which the value of money stated in instruments in other than Ceylon currency is to be ascertained for the purposes of the Stamp Ordinance.

No. 9. To provide for taking a Census from time to time.

No. 10. For making final provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1879.

No. 11. To amend and continue the Ordinance No. 10 of 1876, intituled "An Ordinance to repeal the Wharf and Warehouse "Ordinance, 1865, and to make further provision for the establish- "ment in Colombo and regulation of a company to perform the "duties of wharfingers and warehousemen."

This Ordinance simply amends the rates chargeable by the Colony under Ordinance No. 10 of 1876.

No. 12. To amend the Laws relating to Village Communities.

This Ordinance does not interfere with the principles of the parent Ordinance, No. 26 of 1871, but removes certain ambiguities therein and provides for the more efficient working of the village tribunals.

No. 13. For making provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1880.

No. 14. To provide for the further appropriation of certain unclaimed balances from the funds of the Loan Board.

No. 15. To establish further tolls and to discontinue certain tolls.

No. 16. To provide for the appointment of a Commissioner to hold Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court.

This Ordinance provides a means of affording temporary assistance to the Supreme Court when the work of the court has accumulated to an extent which the judges are unable to deal with.

No. 17. To provide for the medical wants of immigrant labourers in certain planting districts.

This Ordinance provides for the transferrence of the management of the medical care of Malabar immigrants on estates, vested by Ordinance No. 14 of 1872 in district committees from the committees to Government, but without relieving the planters of the charge for such care, which charge is to be levied upon the plantations by assessment based on the number of immigrants employed.

Public Health.

19. It is gratifying to be able to report that the Island was singularly free from serious disease during the year. The preceding year had shown a decreasing death rate in the hospitals, but during 1880 there was, as compared with 1879, a smaller number of admissions to hospital, and a further diminution in the death rate. This result is mainly owing to a decrease in the number of destitute Malabars conveyed to hospital in advanced stages of disease, but partly also to the improved state of health of the general population.

Education.

20. The total number of Government and grant-in-aid schools at the end of the year 1880 was 1,201 with a nominal attendance of 81,114 scholars. Of these 369 were Government schools with 21,294 scholars, and 832 grant schools with 59,820 seholars. Compared with the preceding year this shows an increase of 15 schools and 6,050 scholars. The total expenditure of the year was Rs. 491,867 29, which, compared with Rs. 445,228 14 expenditure for 1879, shows an increase of Rs. 46,649 15. The

CEYLON.

amount voted for the service of the department amounted to Rs. 502,883, showing an unexpended balance of Rs. 11,005 71. Thirty inefficient or superfluous Government schools were closed during the year, and 27 schools were added to the list. There was, consequently, a decrease of three Government schools as compared with the previous year. Notwithstanding this there was an increase of 2,174 scholars on the lists of these schools, and the average attendance increased from 13,752 in 1879 to 15,290 in 1880. The proportion of scholars in daily attendance to the total number on the list was 71·8 per cent., the same as last year. The total expenditure on account of Government schools, exclusive of cost of direction and inspection, was Rs. 205,570, and the net expenditure, deducting Rs. 23,382 94, being receipts from school fees and sale of stationery, was Rs. 182,187 64. The average cost to Government of educating each pupil in the Government schools was consequently Rs. 8 55 as compared with Rs. 9 40 in 1879.

The number of schools and scholars supported by grant-in-aid system has been already shown. It shows an increase of 15 schools and 3,876 scholars over the preceding year. The expenditure under the head grants-in-aid amounted to Rs. 198,019 96 for the year October 1st 1879 to September 30th 1880, being an increase of 36,093 as compared with the expenditure of the previous year. In the following tables are shown: (1.) The number of boys and girls under instruction and the per-centage of daily attendances; (2.) The classification of the schools with reference to locality, standard of instruction, and proportion of population under instruction; (3.) The nationality and religion of the scholars; (4.) The number of scholars examined in the several standards; and (5.) The amount of grants-in-aid earned by the several missions throughout the Island:—

(1.)

	Number of Schools.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total Number of Boys and Girls.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage.
GOVERNMENT.						
English - -	20	1,261	353	1,614	1,397	86
Anglo-vernacular -	31	1,749	122	1,871	1,471	78
Vernacular - -	318	15,181	2,628	17,809	12,422	69

(*continued.*)

	Number of Schools.	Number of Boys.	Number of Girls.	Total Number of Boys and Girls.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage.
GRANT-IN-AID.						
English - -	73	6,572	692	7,264	5,346	73
Anglo-vernacular -	82	4,330	648	7,978	3,386	68
Vernacular - -	678	33,222	14,355	47,578	30,053	63
Total - -	1,202	62,316	18,798	81,114	54,075	—

(2.)

Class of Schools.	Western Province.		Southern Province.		Central Province.		North-western Province.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
Superior - -	25	3,576	9	1,063	4	306	1	255
Middle - -	200	15,188	40	2,877	34	1,944	14	1,179
Primary - -	313	19,681	67	3,361	61	2,915	45	2,568
Total - -	538	38,445	116	7,301	99	5,165	60	4,002
Population - -	897,993		431,396		639,274		292,751	
Proportion under instruction according to census of 1881.	1 in 23		1 in 59		1 in 123		1 in 73	

(*continued.*)

Class of Schools.	North Central Province.		Northern Province.		Eastern Province.		Total.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
Superior - -	—	—	16	1,957	5	448	60	7,605
Middle - -	1	36	116	8,911	27	1,797	432	31,932
Primary - -	11	287	151	9,218	62	3,547	710	41,577
Total - -	12	323	283	20,086	94	5,792	1,202	81,114
Population - -	66,035		303,010		128,070		2,758,529	
Proportion under instruction according to census of 1881.	1 in 204		1 in 15		1 in 22		1 in 34	

(3.)

Nationality.		*Religion.*	
English - - -	69	Buddhist - - -	31,107
European descendants - -	1,871	Hindu - - - -	21,293
Sinhalese - - -	50,059	Roman Catholic - -	20,263
Malabar - - -	27,231	Church of England - -	3,245
Malay - - - -	419	Wesleyan - - -	2,243
Moor - - - -	1,244	Presbyterian, Baptist, and other Christians - - -	1,212
Other - - - -	72	Other - - - -	21

(4.)

	No. of Children examined in Government English Schools.	No. of Children examined in Government Anglo Vernacular Schools.	No. of Children examined in Government Vernacular Schools.	No. of Children examined in Aided English Schools.	No. of Children examined in Aided Anglo - vernacular Schools.	No. of Children examined in Aided Vernacular Schools.	Total.
Standard I. - -	215	232	2,285	805	624	7,189	11 350
Standard II. - -	242	249	2,212	779	561	5,266	9,309
Standard III. -	251	197	1,369	1,065	586	5,527	8,995
Standard IV.- -	189	142	704	872	397	2,464	4,768
Standard V. - -	119	61	333	588	167	620	1,888
Standard VI.- -	78	22	18	336	63	139	656
Total - -	1,094	903	6,921	4,445	2,398	21,205	36,966

(5.)

	English.	Anglo-vernacular.	Vernacular.	"C."	Total.	Amount of Grant.	
						Rs.	cts.
American - -	4	11	113	0	128	27,882	27
Baptist - -	0	9	26	0	35	5,702	40
Buddhist - -	0	0	4	0	4	532	70
Church of England (C.M.S.) -	9	33	123	9	174	27,983	70
Church of England, Diocesan -	8	5	22	0	35	9,057	50
Church of England (S.P.G.) -	5	4	25	0	34	7,561	21
Presbyterian -	0	0	2	0	2	208	45
Private - -	6	1	17	0	24	10,794	29
Roman Catholic -	27	2	173	0	202	59,535	14
Wesleyan - -	14	17	163	1	195	36,490	5
Total - -	73	82	668	10	833	185,747	71

Judicial Statistics.

21. Though the returns of the year show a decrease in the number of persons charged with offences of all kinds, there is a marked increase in the number of cases of serious crime committed for trial before the superior courts. The Queen's Advocate explains that this is partly attributable to the fact that many cases were sent this year for trial by the superior courts which, according to the practice of former years, would have been disposed of by the police courts where the punitive jurisdiction does not admit of adequately deterrent sentences.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 16.

Governor Sir F. A. WELD, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Singapore,
September 21, 1881.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the annual report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1880.

2. I enclose also copies of the annual reports for the same year on the Settlements of Penang and Malacca, which have been prepared by the Acting Lieutenant-Governor, and the Acting Resident Councillor, respectively.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) FRED. A. WELD,
The Earl of Kimberley, G rnor.
&c. &c. o

REPORT on the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS BLUE BOOK for the Year 1880.

Finance.

1. The revenue of the Colony for the year 1880 amounted to $2,361,301, being $538,649 in excess of the revenue 1879. The several Settlements contributed to this total as follows: Revenue.

	$	$
Singapore -	1,277,414	an increase of 239,395 over 1879.
Penang -	901,904	„ 265,409 „
Malacca -	181,948	„ 33,845 „

whilst $35 was received by the Crown Agents.

2. The total revenue exceeded the estimates for the year by $96,938.

3. The increase is due mainly to the re-letting of the Excise farms for a term of three years, commencing from 1st January 1880. The land revenue has, however, shown a remarkable increase over previous years' collections.

4. The expenditure during the year 1880 was as follows:— Expenditure.

	$
Singapore - -	1,239,525
Penang - -	434,082
Malacca - -	173,961

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

making a total for the Colony of $2,038,948; that is $139,264 in excess of the expenditure for 1879, and 34,595 in excess of the estimated expenditure for 1880.

5. The expenditure for 1879 included an unusual sum of $80,184 for contribution to waterworks, whilst $105,779 was spent during 1880 on the Tĕluk Ayer reclamation scheme, a work which, when concluded, will prove highly remunerative.

The expenditure for the next few years will probably be swelled by the construction of other much needed Public Works.

6. The balance to the credit of the Colony stood on the 1st January 1880 at $466,700; on the 1st January 1881 it had increased to $816,747.

7. During the year 1880, the ordinary debt of the three protected Malay States to the Colony was reduced from $278,648 to $165,733, whilst interest at 5 per cent. was paid upon the debit balances.

This debt on the 1st January 1882 will stand at about $30,000.

Assets and liabilities.

8. A return of assets and liabilities shows that, whilst the assets stood on the 1st January 1880 at $721,592 and the liabilities at $254,892, on the 1st January 1881 the assets had risen to $1,143,077, and the liabilities to $326,330.

9. The above figures do not, however, include Government loans to municipalities, advances on account of the defence of Singapore, and expenditure to put down disturbances in the Malay States, which amount, in all, to $510,896, a sum which cannot at once be drawn upon, but may be considered as an asset.

10. A further liability is the balance, $441,600, due on the Colony's 4½ per cent. debentures, gradually extinguishable by an annnal payment of about 6,500*l.* in redemption of bonds

11. Finally, the Colony is, by direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, liable for the payment to the Imperial Government of a sum of about $550,000 for the suppression of disturbances in Pêrak during the years 1875–1876.

This sum will be raised on loan.

Military expenditure.

12. The military expenditure during 1880 amounted to $239,102, a sum which varies but little from year to year, and consists almost entirely of the Colony's contribution to the Imperial Government on account of one European regiment and half a battery of artillery stationed in the Straits Settlements.

13. The military buildings of all kinds belong to the Colony, and the expenditure upon their construction and up-keep during the year 1880 amounted to $26,492.

Municipal revenues.

14. The municipal revenue for the year 1880 amounted to :—

	$		$	
Singapore -	278,477	against	273,166	in 1879.
Penang -	148,332	„	195,162	„
Malacca -	22,428	„	17,527	„

The apparent decrease in Penang is explained by the fact that in the revenue 1879 was included two sums, for an investment realised and a loan from Government, amounting together to $48,000.

15. The municipal expenditure at the three Settlements was :— Municipal expenditure.

		$		$	
Singapore	-	288,687	against	246,173	in 1879.
Penang	-	144,705	„	196,515	„
Malacca	-	18,899	„	16,790	„

The decrease in Penang is explained by large payments in 1879 on account of roads, construction of town hall, and discharged debentures.

The balances on the 31st December 1879 and 1880 were respectively :—

In Singapore, 1879, $30,171 ; 1880, $19,960.

In Penang, 1879, $87 ; in 1880, $3,714.

In Malacca, 1879, $1,402 ; and in 1880, $4,932.

16. This bank was established in Singapore in January 1877, and was originally managed by a committee. On July 1st, 1880, it was placed under the Colonial Treasurer, and became a Government Institution. The rate of interest now allowed is 4 per cent. Since the bank was first started, 522 accounts have been opened, and of these, on the 31st December 1880, there remained 243, an increase of 59 compared with those remaining on the same date in the previous year. Government Savings Bank.

17. The balance to the credit of depositors, inclusive of interest, at the close of the year was $30,574 22. The profits of the bank at the end of the year were $574 15.

18. This institution is managed by a secretary, who receives an allowance of $250 per annum. He is directly under the supervision of the Colonial Treasurer.

Legislation.

19. The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year 1880, and have, with the exception of No. V., all received the gracious confirmation and allowance of Her Majesty :—

I. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. XV. of 1869 (Volunteers' Ordinance).

II. An Ordinance for taking the Census of the Straits Settlements from time to time.

III. An Ordinance to provide for the appointment and duties of Marriage Registrars.

IV. An Ordinance to make provision by Law for the protection of Chinese Immigrants

V. An Ordinance to provide for the registration of Marriages and Divorces among Mahomedans, for the appointment of Kalis, and to define the modifications of the Laws of Property to be recognised in the case of Mahomedan Marriages.

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VI. An Ordinance for the more effectual prevention of Crime.

VII. An Ordinance to incorporate Tan Tock Seng's Hospital.

VIII. An Ordinance for the further improvement of the Law of Civil Procedure.

IX. An Ordinance to provide for the protection of the Estates and Effects of Persons dying Intestate without known Kin.

X. An Ordinance for making provision for the Public Service for the year 1881.

XI. An Ordinance for making final provision for the Public Service for the year 1879.

XII. An Ordinance to correct a clerical error in Ordinance No. VI. of 1880.

20. The titles of these enactments sufficiently explain their objects, and there is none which calls for special remark. It may, however, be explained that Ordinance No. IV. of 1880 is not a law to procure the immigration of Chinese into the Colony, but to protect, especially in their labour contracts, the immense numbers of Chinese who yearly arrive at the ports of the Colony, either to labour here, or seeking to make in the Colony and under the supervision of Government engagements to labour outside its limits, but in what may be called its neighbourhood.

21. The hospital referred to in Ordinance No. VII. is a large pauper hospital capable of containing about 550 patients, which has been liberally endowed by certain wealthy and influential Chinese. Its management is now in the hands of a committee of official, nominated, and elected members, in whose hands the trust funds and property are vested.

Public Works.

22. Great progress with certain public works was made during the year, especially in Singapore. The new gaol at Pearl's Hill was pushed on notwithstanding increasing difficulties from the failure of contractors and from the paucity of skilled labour. The Tĕluk Ayer Reclamation Scheme, too, which was only just begun at the close of 1879, was carried on with all possible energy by the Public Works Department. The expenditure on the former work amounted to $132,497, and on the latter to $105,779. Other important buildings also engaged the attention of the Department, but it is only necessary to mention the erection of the new hospital at the Sepoy Lines.

23. In Penang, great improvements were effected in connexion with the police stations (some of which were re-built, while in other cases new buildings were provided), the pauper hospital, and the gaol. A new post office was also commenced, and a new office for the Assistant Protector of Chinese was completed. The total expenditure during the year on civil buildings was $111,122, being the largest amount since 1876.

24. At Malacca the expenditure amounted to $16,813, and was chiefly devoted to providing new quarters for police con-

stables and effecting permanent improvements to existing stations.

25. The total expenditure on public works, civil and military, during the past five years was as follows:—

1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
$	$	$	$	$
85,709	160,166	110,135	307,528	424,731

26. On military works the expenditure during the year 1880 was: in Singapore, $10,876; in Penang, $13,666; and in Malacca, $1,950. In Penang, new quarters were built for the Senior Medical Officer, but otherwise in the three Settlements the expenditure was chiefly incurred in the maintenance or improvement of existing buildings.

Education.

27. The year under review witnessed an important change by the strengthening of the personnel of the Education Department, which took place in June. Mr. Trevenen, in that month, took charge of the department on his appointment as Inspector of Schools, and Mr. E. C. Hill, passed Cadet, was promoted to be Superintendent of Education in Penang and Province Wellesley, a new appointment, which had been advocated for some years. In authorising this addition to the staff, the Secretary of State directed that the Superintendent of Education in Penang should be, in every respect, subordinate to the Inspector of Schools.

28. The expenditure in the cause of education, exclusive of the salaries of the Education Office, amounted to $53,142, and the reimbursements, in the shape of school fees from the Government schools and sale of books, amounted to $2,280 79.

29. The expenditure and revenue during the past three years has been as follows:—

——	1878.	1879.	1880.
	$	$	$
Expenditure - - -	37,222	46,894	53,142
Revenue - - -	1,372	2,058	2,280

30. The largest item of expenditure for the year is for the maintenance of Government schools which amounted to $24,556, but probably the more important, as it is the most interesting, item is the sum expended for grants for results. Taking again the three years above referred to, the figures under this head are as follows:—

	$
1878 - - -	6,057
1879 - - -	8,064
1880 - - -	15,305

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31. The two last years were under the new Code, which, except in the case of Raffles and the Penang Free Schools, abolished fixed grants to boys' schools.

32. The following table shows the amount gained by each school inspected under the Code, and gives details as to average enrolment and attendance, and per-centage of passes :—

School.	Grant for Ordinary Passes.	Grant for Extra Passes.	Grant for Average Attendance.	Total Results Grant.	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Passes.
	$	$	$	$			
Raffles Institution - - -	4,623	230	960	5,813	546	480	86
Singapore Brothers' - - -	1,581	40	440	2,061	273	220	76
Chinese Mission - - -	303	—	136	439	105	68	75
St. Anna's Girls School - -	189	—	120	309	71	60	80
Penang Free School - - -	3,003	70	910	3,983	631	455	60
Penang Brothers' - - -	1,062	50	308	1,420	192	154	67
Pulau Tikus Mission - - -	384	—	136	520	80	68	53
Tamil Mission - - - -	108	—	48	156	41	24	51
St. Francis, Malacca - - -	258	—	214	472	173	107	43
Portuguese Mission { Bander Ilir -	105	—	62	167	37	31	55
Portuguese Mission { Trankira -	93	—	64	157	38	32	63
	11,709	390	3,398	15,497	2,187	1,899	—

33. At the Government Branch Schools, the average enrolment was 381, the average attendance 306, and the per-centage of passes 76.

34. The cost of education in the different boys' schools where English is taught will be seen from the following table:

School.	Cost per Boy in Average Enrolment.	Cost per Boy in Average Attendance.	Cost per Pass.
	$ 25 cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Raffles Institution -	96	29 53	9 20
Singapore Brothers' -	26 05	32 32	13 49
Chinese Mission -	7 79	12 03	8 09
Government English Branch Schools.	13 27	16 52	11 14
High School, Malacca - -	22 37	26 15	14 24
St. Francis, Malacca - -	7 85	12 67	15 79
Portuguese Mission, Malacca -	6 80	8 09	7 72
Free School, Penang - -	14 58	20 22	9 19
Brothers' School, Penang -	9 53	11 88	5 17
Pulau Tikus School, Penang -	13 25	15 58	8 81
Tamil Mission School, Penang -	3 58	6 12	4 08

35. Special mention should be made of the progress of the Malacca High School, which, owing to its inefficient and unsatisfactory state, was taken over by the Government towards the close of the year 1878. In that year, the average enrolment was 177, it increased to 209 in 1879, and to 242 in 1880. The per-centage of passes obtained last year, viz., 87, was the highest of any school in the Colony.

36. As regards female education (excluding the orphanages, which are not open to inspection), the following table will show what is being done in that direction. It exhibits a marked improvement upon the results of the previous year, when only two

schools were examined by the Inspector, but it must be admitted that the results are, at present, very small.

School.	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Passes.	Cost per Girl, Average Enrolment.	Cost per Girl, Average Attendance.	Cost per Pass.
				$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Raffles Girls' School - -	91	79	85	45 66	52 59	25 03
St. Anna's do. - -	71	60	80	19 62	23 21	22 11
Portuguese Mission, Malacca -	34	24	84	7 06	10 00	8 57
Malacca Girls' School - -	25	21	84	65 20	77 61	38 80

37. Taking all the schools where English is taught under review, it may be safely stated that fair progress during the year has been made, but the material on which the teacher has to work is so weak that, except in point of numbers, no very great improvement can be anticipated, at any rate for many years to come. In some of the principal schools, however, the teaching staff has very lately been strengthened, and in others, steps are being taken to that end. A certain measure of success will, by the judicious expenditure of money in this direction, be surely achieved. The average enrolment during the last three years was: in 1878, 2,395 boys; in 1879, 2,650 boys; and in 1880, 2,960 boys.

38. It is to be regretted that the vernacular schools cannot be favourably reported upon. The average enrolment during the last three years stands thus: in 1878, 1,524; in 1879, 1,579; and in 1880, 1,659. The attendance is still unsatisfactory, being, for the whole Colony, only 1,299. The numbers are slightly better than they were in 1879, for there is an increase of 91 in Singapore and Malacca, but a decrease of 52 for Penang and Province Wellesley. The state of affairs regarding Vernacular Education generally is engaging the careful attention of the Government.

Trade.

39. The total value of the imports into the Colony for the year was $83,718,103, being an increase of $3,903,270 over the value in 1879. Total value of imports.

40. In Penang alone there is again a decrease, viz., $1,093,676, which is nearly evenly divided between the imports from the United Kingdom and from foreign countries, the value of the imports from British Colonies remaining about the same as in 1879. Decrease in Penang.

41. Whereas, in comparing the imports of 1879 with those of 1878, it appeared that the greater part of the increase was in the trade with foreign countries, the figures in the statements for 1880, when compared with those for 1879, show, both in Singapore and Penang, a considerable decrease in this trade, and a slight increase, $41,219, in Malacca, which is accounted for by the increased trade between that Settlement and the Malay States; the result being a net decrease of $1,432,503. Decrease in foreign trade.

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42. In Singapore, the decrease is $909,447, the chief items being the imports from China, $798,686; from French India, $715,907; and the Malayan Peninsula, $257,903. The following are the chief increases: from Japan, $508,029; from Siam, $227,382; from Netherlands India, $128,272; from Germany, $121,837; and from Cochin China, $114,532.

43. In Penang there are decreases amounting to $1,594,609, and increases amounting to $1,030,334, giving a net decrease of $564,275. By far the largest item in the decrease is the trade with Sumatra, which shows a falling off of $1,178,806; there is also a decrease of $220,802 from China. The following are the increases: Siam, $676,925; Malayan Peninsula, $220,365; Japan, $100,000.

From Malayan Peninsula.

44. The imports from the Malayan Peninsula again show a decrease in Singapore, but increases in Penang and Malacca, giving a net increase of $9,780.

From United Kingdom.

45. On the other hand, the trade with the United Kingdom shows a net increase of $3,029,380, though there is again a decrease in Penang amounting to $594,831. The chief articles of which increased quantities have been imported are cotton goods, coals, hardware and cutlery, and provisions.

From British Colonies.

46. The imports from other British Colonies (including British India) shew a steady increase, though not so large a one as in 1879. The increase is $365,305, of which $278,106 is in Singapore, and $87,199 in Penang. In 1879 the increase was chiefly in the trade with Hong Kong, and the decrease in that with British India and British Burmah, but the figures for 1880 show reverse results. The chief item in the decrease from Hong Kong is "Specie." From British Burmah, almost the whole of the increase is due to the increased quantity of rice imported. The decrease from Australia is due to the smaller quantity of coals imported. The largest item in the increased imports from British India is, as might be expected, opium.

Local trade.

47. The import trade between the three Settlements of the Colony shows an increase in Singapore of $1,404,571, and in Malacca of $558,286; and a decrease in Penang of $21,769, resulting in a net increase of $1,941,088. The chief item in the increase at Singapore is tin. The value of tin imported from Malacca and Penang in 1880 was $2,818,865 against $1,832,556 in 1879, showing an increase of $986,129. Nearly the whole of this tin comes from the Malay States through Malacca.

Total value of exports.

48. The value of the exports during the year was $78,051,739, being an increase of $3,426,469 over that for 1879.

To United Kingdom.

49. The exports to the United Kingdom show an increase of $960,779 in Singapore, and of $49,536 in Penang. The chief articles of which increased quantities were exported are specie, hides, tin, tapioca, gambier, copra, and rattans. The article which shows the largest decrase is gutta percha.

To British Colonies.

50. The exports to British Colonies give an increase of $93,746 which is divided as follows: — Singapore, $31,023; Penang, $62,723. In Singapore, a large increase is shown in the trade

with Australia, the chief articles exported being white pepper, tin, coffee, and nutmegs. The trade with British India and Ceylon also has increased, while that with British Burmah, Hong Kong, Labuan, and Mauritius has decreased. In Penang there is a large increase in the trade with British India, and a corresponding decrease in that with Hong Kong.

To foreign countries.

51. In the export trade with foreign countries, there is an increase of $3,758,547 in Singapore, and $184,228 in Malacca, and a decrease of $3,378,991 in Penang, giving a net increase of $563,784.

52. In Singapore, the chief items are the exports to China, Netherlands, India, and America, while there are considerable decreases to the Malayan Peninsula, French India, and Siam. The chief articles which give the increases are: to China, specie; to Netherlands India, rice, opium, salted fish, cotton goods and ironware; and to America, tin and rattans.

53. In Penang, with the exception of a small decrease of $74,327 in the exports to Siam, the whole of the large decrease is in the trade with Dutch countries, viz., to Holland, $2,011,262; to Sumatra, $2,300,769; and to Java, $449,818. There are considerable increases in the trade to the Malayan Peninsula, America, and China, and smaller increases to eight other countries.

54. In Malacca, nearly the whole of the increase is in the exports to the Malayan Peninsula.

To Malayan peninsula.

55. The exports to the Malayan Peninsula have increased in Penang and Malacca, but decreased in Singapore, the result being a net decrease of $121,286.

Local trade.

56. The exports between the three Settlements show an increase of $1,758,624 viz., in Singapore, $578,394; in Penang, $499,941; and in Malacca, $680,289.

Shipping inwards.

57. The number of vessels (exclusive of native craft) entered at the three ports of the Colony during 1880 was 4,437, with an aggregate tonnage of 2,800,595 tons, and crews numbering 187,589 persons. The number in 1879 was 4,304 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 2,577,726 and 186,419 persons. The increase in 1880 is, therefore, 133 vessels, 222,869 tons, and 1,170 persons. The increase is in British vessels, there being a decrease in the number of foreign vessels.

Increase.

Singapore.

58. In Singapore, 2,120 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 1,693,096 tons, entered during the year; being an increase of 177 vessels and 182,599 tons over the number for 1879. The number of steamers was 1,753 against 1,457 in 1879. There is a decrease in the number of sailing vessels, 367 arriving in 1880 against 486 in 1879.

Penang.

59. In Penang 1,660 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 945,267 tons, entered, being a decrease of 56 vessels and an increase of 46,737 tons when compared with 1879. The number of steamers has increased from 1,397 in 1879 to 1,453 in 1880, but there is a decrease of 112 in the number of sailing vessels, which accounts for the net decrease given above.

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Malacca.

60. In Malacca 657 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 162,232 tons entered, being an increase of 12 vessels, but a decrease of 6,467 tons in their tonnage.

Native craft. Inwards.

61. The number of native craft entered at the three ports of the Colony has decreased from 7,575 with a tonnage of 208,117 tons in 1879, to 7,224 with a tonnage of 203,450 tons in 1880.

Singapore.

62. In Singapore there is a decrease of 371 vessels and 4,328 tons, the numbers for the year 1880 being 4,657 vessels and 136,959 tons. This is accounted for by the smaller number of native craft now arriving from the Malayan Peninsula as steam communication increases.

Penang.

63. In Penang there is a decrease of 11 vessels and 1,694 tons, the numbers being 1,870 vessels and 51,329 tons. The harbour master points out that there is a great falling off in the number of small schooners, in which the trade to the east and west coasts of Sumatra used to be carried on.

Malacca.

64. In Malacca 697 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 15,162 tons entered, being an increase of 31 vessels and 1,355 tons over 1879; but here also the number of native craft from Sumatra has decreased from 116 in 1879 to 96 in 1880.

Shipping. Outwards.

65. The number of vessels (exclusive of Native craft) cleared from the three ports of the Colony during 1880 was 4,419, with an aggregate tonnage of 2,705,350 tons, and crews numbering 184,849 persons. The numbers in 1879 were 4,584 vessels, 2,352,572 tons, and 168,470 persons. There is, therefore, a decrease of 165 vessels, but an increase of 352,778 tons and 16,379 persons. The number of British vessels has increased from 3,438 in 1879 to 3,456 in 1880; but foreign vessels have decreased from 1,146 to 963.

Singapore.

66. From Singapore 1,728 steamers of an aggregate tonnage of 1,359,903 tons cleared, being an increase of 432 vessels and 361,465 tons over 1879; but the number of sailing vessels is 559 below that for 1879, and the decrease in their tonnage is 60,202 tons.

Penang.

67. From Penang 1,448 steamers of an aggregate tonnage of 891,617 tons cleared in 1880, and 1,391 steamers of 822,046 tons in 1879; showing an increase of 57 vessels and 69,571 tons. There is a decrease of 110 sailing vessels and 13,812 tons in their tonnage.

Malacca.

68. From Malacca 656 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 162,142 tons cleared, being an increase of 15 vessels, but a decrease of 234 tons in their tonnage.

Native craft. Outwards.

69. The number of Native craft cleared from the three ports of the Colony in 1880 is 7,691, of an aggregate tonnage of 210,359 tons. In 1879 the figures were 7,813 vessels and 213,962 tons. There is, therefore, a decrease of 122 vessels and 3,603 tons.

Singapore.

70. From Singapore there is an increase of 199 vessels and 3,307 tons, the numbers being 4,694 vessels and 137,483 tons.

71. From Penang there is a decrease of 238 vessels and 6,642 tons, the numbers being 2,078 vessels and 56,005 tons; 313 vessels cleared for Sumatra against 421 in 1879. STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. Penang.

72. From Malacca 919 vessels of 16,871 tons cleared, being a decrease of 83 vessels and 268 tons. Malacca.

73. During the year 959 Europeans were shipped and 969 discharged at the shipping offices of the three Settlements. Eight deaths were reported among European seamen and 82 desertions. 7,162 natives were shipped and 6,610 discharged. 21 deaths were reported and 77 desertions. Seamen. European. Natives.

74. Twenty-eight persons were examined for certificates of competency as masters and mates, of whom 21 passed and 7 failed. Examination for masters and mates.

75. Sixteen persons were examined for certificates as 1st class, and 36 as 2nd class engineers, of these 14 obtained 1st class and 32 2nd class certificates, and six failed. For engineers.

Police and Crime.

76. The state of the police force during the year cannot be commented on in any favourable way. It was not until the close of the year that permission was received in the Colony to re-organize the Force on the basis recommended by the Police Commission of 1879. By that time, the Inspector-General reports, "the Forces in Singapore and Penang had, both as to numbers and ability of the constables, sunk to a lower state than I had ever known them."

77. The number of cases arrested by the police during the year amounted to 16,528, showing a total increase of 651 over the previous year. In Penang the increase was 872, but there was a decrease of 221 in Malacca, while the Singapore returns show no difference between 1879 and 1880.

78. For the past three years the figures are as follows:—

Settlement.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Singapore - - - - -	7,883	6,451	6,451
Penang - - - - - -	8,659	8,273	9,145
Malacca - - - - - -	936	1,153	932
Total -	17,478	15,877	16,528

79. No special details call for remark as regards Singapore, but several bad cases of serious crime occurred in Penang and Province Wellesley. The number of murders, of which there were 16, was unusually high, while some daring cases of gang-robbery showed very clearly that the criminal classes in that portion of the Colony were not being properly kept in check.

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80. The supreme courts in the three Settlements dealt with 345 cases against 427 in 1879, and of these 24 persons were charged with murder and one with attempt at murder. Thirteen convictions were obtained, and eight executions took place in Penang, and two in Singapore.

81. The following table sets out the total number of cases dealt with by the Police Magistrates both in 1879 and 1880.

Settlement.	1879.	1880.
Singapore - - - - -	8,707	8,908
Penang - - - - - -	7,601	7,594
Province Wellesley - - - -	3,466	4,883
Malacca - - - - - -	1,390	1,862
Total -	21,164	23,247

82. In Province Wellesley, the figures are swelled by the increase of cases under the Indian Immigration Ordinance, which rose from 622 in 1879 to 975 last year, but there was also an increase under more serious categories.

83. As regards the civil business in the Courts of the Colony, the number of cases for the year 1879 and 1880 was as follows:—

Supreme Courts.

Settlement.	1879.	1880.
Singapore - - - - -	755*	514†
Penang - - - - - -	553	664‡
Malacca - - - - - -	99	105§

* Besides these, there were 8 interpleaders and 1 Magistrate's appeal case.
† Do. 12 do. 11 do.
‡ Do. 10 do. 28 do.
§ Do. 4 do. 4 do.

Courts of Requests.

Settlement.	1879.	1880.
Singapore - - - - -	2,965	3,202
Penang - - - - - -	2,483	2,216
Province Wellesley - - - -	713	718
Malacca - - - - - -	1,463	945

Gaols.

84. The outbreak of the disease called beri-beri in the Singapore Criminal Prison necessitated the temporary alteration of the system under which all prisoners under long sentence are confined in this gaol. As but little improvement was effected in the health of the Native male prisoners by means of local expedients, it was decided to transfer a number of men to the Penang and Malacca gaols and in April 186 were sent to the former and 30 to the latter Settlement. The Singapore Prison may be said from that date to have been almost free from that terrible disease, but unfortunately it broke out in the Penang Gaol after the arrival of the prisoners above mentioned, with the result that there were 61 admissions to hospital from among the Penang prisoners, of whom two died.

This transference of prisoners does not appear to have interfered with the maintenance of discipline, which is stated to have been good in all the gaols of the Colony. It is, too, satisfactory to note, that the number of prison punishments was less than is recorded for 1879, though they must still be considered as excessive. They amounted to, 3,987 in the three criminal gaols in 1880 as against 5,563 in 1879. The committals of prisoners to those gaols were, however, 4,835 in 1880, while in 1879 they were 5,064. It may safely be anticipated that with the completion of the new gaol in Singapore, which will be the case at the close of 1881, a marked improvement will be effected in the treatment of prisoners, while the separate system will also deter the criminal classes from committing repeated offences.

85. The daily average of prisoners in the criminal gaols was as follows:—Singapore 532, Penang 444, Malacca 64, or a total of 1,040 for the three gaols. In 1879 the similar total was 1,174. There were two escapes from the gaols of prisoners under short sentence, one in Singapore and one in Penang. The former was re-captured. In the temporary hospital for beri-beri cases in Singapore, two prisoners under long sentence effected their escape but both of them were subsequently arrested.

86. The total cost of the civil and criminal prisons in the three Settlements was $82,185. The sale of manufactures, broken stones, &c. realised $6,252,

Health.

87. The general health of the Colony during the year 1880 was decidedly good. There was no epidemic in any of the Settlements, but a harmless visitation of mumps made its appearance and prevailed for a short time in Singapore, Penang, and Malacca.

88. The inmates of the criminal prison, Singapore, were attacked, in the early part of 1880, by beri-beri in its worst form; a considerable number of deaths occurred, and the decimation of the prisoners was only stopped by removing them to the Civil Prison, Singapore, and the criminal prisons in Penang and Malacca. Be-

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fore the end of the year, new cases had almost ceased to appear, and many of those attacked had recovered.

89. During the year 1880 559 sick Europeans and 13,929 Natives were admitted into the several hospitals, and these, with the numbers remaining at the close of the previous year, made a total treated during 1880 of 577 Europeans and 15,312 Natives. 23 deaths occurred amongst the European patients, giving a per-centage of 3·9 deaths to total treated, whilst of the Natives 1,055 died, giving a per-centage of 6·8 deaths to total treated.

90. Comparing these figures with the previous year (1879), the results obtained in 1880 are satisfactory. In 1880 the admissions were 14,488 against 13,100 in 1879, the deaths were 1,078 against 1,070 in 1879, whilst the average daily sick in 1880 amounted to 1510·84 against 1416·18 in 1879.

91. The largest number of cases treated are from affections of the digestive organs, ulcers, and fevers, but it is interesting to note that while 4 cases of opium poisoning were admitted 54 cases of alcoholic poisoning were treated.

Singapore.

92. In the General Hospital, Singapore, 504 Europeans and 1,059 Natives were treated. There was no case of cholera.

93. In the hospital of the Criminal Prison, 934 cases were admitted, of which 658 were beri-beri. The per-centage of deaths was 8·87, 8·02 being from beri-beri. In 1879 the per-centage of deaths from beri-beri reached, 20·9.

94. In the Pauper Hospital the number of daily sick averaged 501·70 and the per-centage of deaths 12·10. In 1879 the average daily sick was only 187·33, while the per-centage of deaths was as high as 24·50.

Penang.

95. Sixty-one Europeans were treated in the General Hospital, of whom 4 died. The number of Natives admitted was 587 and the deaths 20, or 3·40 per cent.

96. In the Gaol Hospital 257 cases were admitted against 403 in 1879; 9 cases proved fatal against 8 in the former year.

97. In the Pauper Hospital 1,684 cases were treated, with a per-centage of 13·11 deaths against 1,847 cases in 1879, with a per-centage of 15·75 deaths.

Province Wellesley.

98. The number of patients treated in the Province Wellesley hospitals during 1880 amounted to 1,735 against 1,407 treated in 1879. The per-centage of deaths in 1880 was 4·98 against 7·30 in 1879, and 25·17 in 1878.

Malacca.

99. The public health of Malacca was good. 250 cases were treated in the General Hospital, with only 4 deaths or a per-centage of 1·6 to numbers treated. In the Prison Hospital 209 cases were treated (30 being severe cases of beri-beri sent from Singapore), while only 3 deaths occurred, giving a per-centage of 1·44 to cases treated. All the beri-beri cases recovered.

Leper asylums.

100. In Singapore 150 lepers were treated during 1880 with a per-centage of 16·0 deaths.

At Penang, the number treated was 79, with a per-centage of 34·17 deaths; while at Malacca, 28 lepers were treated, with a

per-centage of 10·71 deaths. It is proposed to concentrate the lepers in one asylum at Pulau Jerajah, Penang. STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

101. At the beginning of the year, 124 lunatics were under treatment; 106 new cases were admitted, and of the total of 230 there died 32, while 47 were discharged. Lunatic Asylum, Singapore.

It is proposed to construct a new and more commodious Asylum on a better site.

102. At Singapore 2,052, patients were treated during the year 1880; only one case, picked up in the street in an advanced stage of disease, resulted in death. 13,883 prostitutes (6,700 being Chinese) were examined under the Contagious Disease Ordinance, and of these 22.1 per cent. were admitted for treatment, a large number being women attempting to evade the Ordinance. Lock hospitals.

At Penang the number of women examined during the year amounted to 14,853, whilst 1,418 were treated in the Lock Hospital, or less than 10 per cent. There was no mortality.

In Malacca 1,024 prostitutes were examined, of whom 94 were treated in Hospital.

103. No vessels arrived during the year 1880 at any port of the Colony with any serious epidemic of contagious disease on board. A few vessels having isolated cases of small-pox were quarantined for short periods. Quarantine.

104. Owing to the geographical position of the three Settlements—Singapore, Penang, and Malacca—surrounded by Native Governments, or those protected by Europeans powers, with as yet unorganised public institutions, the care of the sick of many countries and nationalities has for years fallen on this Colony.

The numbers treated in the Straits Settlements hospitals are far in excess of what they would be were the patients confined to residents in the Colony, and the mortality is swelled by cases admitted in the last stage of disease, when all native remedies have failed, often when by long neglect the malady has obtained such a hold that it can no longer be successfully combatted, and sometimes when the patient is even *in extremis*.

Immigration.

105. During the year 1,191 Indian immigrants under the Ordinance arrived in Penang, viz., 993 men, 198 women, and 107 dependents. Indian.

106. Three thousand seven hundred and fifty-five (3,755) Indian Coolies also arrived as free passengers not under the Ordinance.

107. The per-centage of women has slightly increased.

108. The health of the Coolies has steadily improved. Each estate, with one exception, has now its own hospital. These are airy buildings, with ample accommodation, and each is supervised by a medical subordinate under the general superintendence of the Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Province Wellesley, who visits them not less than once a week. The death rate among Coolies for the year was 2·32 per cent.

109 There are 10 estates in Province Wellesley employing immigrant labour, and on these estates on the 31st December 1880

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

there were 2,221 immigrants under the Ordinance, and 2,265 free labourers not protected under the Ordinance.

110. No immigrants are now allowed to come from Negapatam except in steamers.

Chinese.

111. Seventy-eight thousand one hundred and ninety-six(78,196) Chinese immigrants were examined on board vessels, on their arrival at Singapore, by the Officers of the Protector's Department.

Singapore.

Of these 46,744 landed in Singapore, 38,113 had paid their passages, and 8,631 were received in the depôts licensed under the Ordinance.

112. Three thousand and forty-seven (3,047) women arrived at the port, of whom 1,897 landed in Singapore.

113. Ten thousand six hundred and forty-nine (10,649) contracts were entered into at the office of the Protector for labour in the Colony, the Native States, the Dutch Possessions, Australia, Mauritius, and Sarawak.

Penang.

114. In Penang 30,886 Chinese landed in 1880 against 21,520 in 1879. Of these 17,402 had paid their passages and 13,484 were admitted to the licensed depôts. The number of women was 1,234.

115. The number of contracts entered into before the Assistant Protector was 13,949 against 8,560 in 1879. The contracts were for labour in the Colony, the Native States, Sumatra, and some places in Siamese territory.

Postal.

116. The business of the Post Office continues to increase, and as correspondence from neighbouring countries, which formerly passed loose through Singapore, is now transmitted in closed mails, the additional amount of postal matter dealt with by the offices of the Colony must mainly be attributed to local circumstances. The number of letters, newspapers, books, parcels, &c. received and despatched during the past three years was as follows:—

	Received.	Despatched.
1878 - - - - -	790,451	559,099
1879 - - - - -	804,136	577,201
1880 - - - - -	827,831	635,765

117. Of registered letters 12,033 were received and 9,007 were despatched. Besides the correspondence included in the above figures, a very large number of letters, estimated at over 80,000, were sent to China through the Singapore Chinese Sub-Post Office.

118. There was a decrease of $851 in the total receipts of the General Post Office, as compared with the amount collected in

1879, the figures for the two years being $70,074 for 1879 and $69,223 for 1880. The expenditure was $46,219 for 1880 and $40,248 for 1879, but these figures can only be considered as approximately correct, the Imperial account up to 1878 not having been definitely settled. It is estimated that there is a small surplus of revenue over expenditure.

119. The money order business transacted in 1880 was nearly the same as in the previous year. On the United Kingdom, orders were issued for 2,071*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* as compared with 1,804*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* in 1879. On China they amounted to $1,053, while local orders were issued for a total sum of $4,581.

120. The new contract that had been entered into with the P. & O. Company resulted in letters being delivered in Singapore in about 28 days from the date of their leaving England.

Lighthouses.

121. A new lighthouse was erected on Pulau Undan, an island 10 miles S.E. by S. from Malacca, during 1880. The light, which was first exhibited on the 1st December, has an elevation of 155 feet above the level of the sea, and shows a bright intermittent flash all round the horizon, visible, on a clear night, at 20 miles from the deck of a vessel.

122. Besides the harbour lights at the three ports of the Colony, the Straits of Malacca are now lighted as follows:—

The Horsburgh Lighthouse, E. ½ N., distant 33 miles from Singapore.
The Raffles Lighthouse, S.W. ¾ S., distant 10 miles from Singapore.
Pulau Undan Lighthouse, above described.
Cape Rachado Lighthouse, N.W. by W. ½ W., distant 28 miles from Malacca.
The Screw Pile Lighthouse on the North Sands.

123. A light-vessel will be placed on the Formosa Bank, between the Carimon Islands and Malacca, before the close of 1881, and the lighting of the Straits will be completed in 1882 by the erection of a lighthouse on Muka Head, the northern end of the Island of Penang.

Population.

124. The numbers of births and deaths registered in the Colony show an increase over the year 1879.

125. Four thousand nine hundred and thirty-three (4,933) births were registered against 3,144 in 1879. The increase is attributed to greater activity on the part of the police, who are deputy registrars.

126. The number of deaths registered was 8,240 against 6,597 in 1879. It is impossible to account for this increase, except by supposing that in former years a large number of deaths must

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

have taken place which were never registered, and that, owing to strict regulations recently made by the Municipal Commissioners with regard to burial grounds, this cannot now happen.

Establishments.

127. His Excellency Governor Weld arrived in the Colony on the 6th May 1880, and, on his arrival, Major-General Anson resumed his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of Penang, and Mr. C. J. Irving that of resident councillor at Malacca, relieving Major Squirl, who had acted up to that date.

128. Mr. A. M. MacGregor, having been nominated by his His Grace the Governor of Madras, was appointed Protector of Immigrants (Indian) in February.

129. Captain H. E. McCallum, Royal Engineers, succeeded Captain J. H. Satterthwaite, as Deputy Colonial Engineer and Surveyor-General, Penang, in September.

130. Mr. E. M. Merewether and Mr. W. Egerton were appointed to be cadets in the Civil Service of the Colony in November.

General.

131. The returns and reports show that, on the whole, the progress of the Colony has, both financially and materially, been eminently satisfactory during the year under review. Its revenue, as will have been seen, exceeded that of the previous year by more than half a million of dollars, and except for the claim of over $550,000 which has been preferred by the Imperial Government on account of the Pêrak war expenses, the surplus revenue and Treasury balances are, with due reserves, available for important public improvements, some of which have already been begun.

132. Trade, as exemplified by the shipping returns as well as by those of the imports and exports, has increased. Peace and good order have been maintained throughout the Settlements.

The health of the different communities which make up the mixed population of the Colony would compare favourably with the most favoured portion of Her Majesty's possessions. And, although the information properly belongs to the records of the current year, it may be stated, in conclusion, that from the returns of the census taken in April, the total population of the Straits Settlements has been ascertained to have increased from 308,097 in 1871 to 416,921 in 1881, and is probably yet larger.

(Signed) CECIL C. SMITH,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

PENANG.

No. 17.

The ACTING LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, Penang, to the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Straits Settlements.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office, Penang,
April 27, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the report on the Blue Book of the Settlement for 1880.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. A. McNAIR,
Major, R.A.,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

I.—*Colonial Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue for 1880 exceeded that for 1879 by $266,381.

This large addition is chiefly due to the enhanced rates at which the excise and pawnbroker farms were sold at the close of 1879 for three years 1880, 1881, and 1882.

Mr. C. J. Irving refers to this in more detail in a footnote to his comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Settlement for the years 1877, 1878, and 1879, which was published in the Blue Book for last year.

It should be specially noted also that a marked increase of $15,967 occurred under land revenue, which is satisfactory.

The revenue from stamps also shows a slight excess over 1879 of $4,508.

II.—*Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.*

The lighting of the town was extended and improved, and the water supply and conservancy duly maintained.

The town hall was completed in the month of May, and was formally opened by his Excellency the Governor Sir F. A. Weld, K.C.M.G., on the 28th July 1880.

The total cost of the building was $40,500, two-thirds of which sum was paid out of the "Beach Street Fund," and the remaining one-third from the funds of the municipality.

The purchase of furniture and the lighting of the building have been deferred until 1881.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

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III.—*Imports and Exports.*

The imports of the Settlement as reported by Captain Fox, R.N.R., the harbour master of the port, show a total decrease of $1,093,676, and the exports of $2,766,791, making a total declension in the trade of the port of $3,860,467 during the year.

The imports from Sumatra show a decrease of $1,178,806, and the exports there of $2,300,769, making a total reduction in the import and export trade from Sumatra alone of $3,479,575.

There is, however, a slight growth in the import trade from the Malayan Peninsula of $220,365, and on the export trade of $533,922 which it is satisfactory to record. With China, the export trade over 1879 has increased by $368,712, but the import trade is reduced by $220,802. The trade with British India has also increased by $508,417 in imports, and $213,572 in exports. With Siam, the import trade has increased by $676,925, but the export trade has decreased by $74,327.

The imports into the Settlement from Singapore and Malacca have decreased by $21,769, but the exports have increased by $499,941.

IV.—*Shipping.*

The harbour master's returns show an increase in tonnage "inwards" of 46,737, and "outwards" of 55,757, over the previous year, due principally to increased steam traffic.

Captain Fox, R.N.R., reports that there is, however, a great falling off in the number of small schooners in which the trade to the east and west coast of Sumatra used to be carried on, and a decrease generally of 1,694 tons of native craft inward, but a slight increase of 3,358 tons of native craft that cleared outward.

He refers to the appointment, during the year, of a Government surveying engineer and boarding officer; and points out the advantage, in the former case, of a strict supervision being now kept over the entire steam traffic, and that no port clearance is now granted, except upon a certificate from the latter officer that the number and accommodation of passengers is in accordance with the law.

In regard to the "lights" proposed for Penang, it is suggested that the Muka Head light shall be either "revolving" or "flash" to distinguish it from the fires which continually occur in and about the neighbouring hills where the light is to be placed.

It is expected that the tower and light for Fort Cornwallis will be put up next year.

The buoys and beacons have been efficiently maintained during the year.

In November the steamer *Braemar Castle* was sunk in the fairway channel by the steamer *Breconshire*, and now lies in eight fathoms of water. Steps will be taken to ensure the early removal of the obstruction.

V.—*Land.*

The collector of land revenue, Mr. F. G. Penney, reports that the sum of $52,707 90, or $15,928 10 more than in 1879, was collected from land, and, with the addition of the rents received from ferries which are under the control of the Land Office, and reimbursements from survey fees and sale of maps and plans, the total reached $56,927 71.

Land rents alone yielded $31,471 19, as compared with $23,880 56 in 1879.

The following leases, &c., were issued by the Land Office :—

	Penang.		Province Wellesley.		Trans-Krian.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
		A. R. P.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
Leases, town -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leases, country -	137	111 1 38	94	524 1 19½	36	1,609 3 14
		276,050 s. ft.	*20	144 3 38	—	—
Settlement officers' certificates -	—	—	—	—	387	1,622 3 22

* New Territory Leases.

The issue of permits has been permanently stopped.

The estimated area of cultivated land in the Settlement, out of a total area of 249,402 acres, is 180,979 acres.

VI.—*Post Office.*

The operations of this department have been satisfactorily carried on during the year. The returns show an increase of covers received of 27,988, and of covers despatched of 12,484 over the preceding year.

The local postal communication also continues to be availed of by the public to the same extent as last year, and there is no falling-off in the number of letters forwarded by Chinese Coolies through the Government Post Office.

The revenue of the department has, however, slightly declined, but this is plainly due to the reduced sale of postage stamps, consequent on the lower rate of postage to the United Kingdom.

The figures for 1879 were $16,887 12 as against $15,004 44 for 1880.

The salary of the postmaster has been raised from $1,200 to $2,040 per annum during the year.

A new and commodious building for this department has been commenced, and will be completed towards the close of 1881.

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VII.—*Indian Immigration.*

During the year there were 1,191 immigrants received into the Settlement, 993 of this number were men and 198 women. The per-centage of women is slightly in excess over last year.

The number of Indian passengers not under the ordinance, who arrived in the Settlement was 3,755, as against 4,379 in 1879. The Protector reports, however, that at least one-third of these passengers should have come to the Colony under the provisions of the Immigration Ordinance.

The health of the Coolies on the estates has steadily improved during the last three years. The death rate for the whole province during the year was 2·32 per cent. The hospitals on each estate were well maintained, and were frequently inspected.

There are still numerous desertions amongst the Coolies, as many as 319 or 11·38 per cent. having absconded from their employers to the neighbouring Native States and Dutch Settlements. The Protector suggests, as a partial remedy for this state of things, that immigration to the Native States should be sanctioned by the Government.

In addition to the immigrants employed upon the estates, there are reported to be 2,265 Coolies not under protection.

The Protector, Mr. MacGregor, states that the time has arrived, he thinks, when schools should be regularly established on the estates for the education of the Tamil children, such schools receiving a grant-in-aid from Government. It is hoped that under the care of the resident missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel recently appointed, and who is devoting special attention to the subject, some improvement may be made in this direction.

The fees received during the year amounted to $1,265—$1,191 for immigrants on arrival, and $74 for contracts registered.

The cost of the immigration establishment, exclusive of the emigration agency at Negapatam, was $7,577 79.

VIII.—*Chinese Emigration and Immigration.*

Mr. E. Karl, the Protector, reports that the number of Chinese immigrants during the year amounted to 30,886 as against 21,520 in 1879. Of that number, 15,546 were from Hong Kong, 8,152 from Swatow, 5,881 from Amoy, 403 from Hainan, and 904 from Singapore. These all arrived in the settlement in 134 steamers, 1 sailing vessel, and 10 junks.

Of these immigrants, 17,402 had paid their passage, and 13,484 were admitted to licensed depôts.

There were 1,234 women and 267 children.

The contracts for labour entered into before the Protector were 19,949 as against 8,560 in 1879, and out of these 5,274

were for labour in the Colony, and 6,992 for labour on some of the Sumatra tobacco estates, 1,105 for labour in tin-mines in the Native States, and 578 for labour in Junk Ceylon and other places in Siamese territory.

In regard to the Secret Societies, 4,751 new members were registered, and although the members are increasing, and the income of the societies augmented, the members are reported to be generally less troublesome than they have ever been.

The work of this department has greatly increased, and the staff of clerks is reported to be inadequate for the duties to be performed.

IX.—*Education.*

Free School.

This school is under Mr. George Griffin as head master, and has been favourably reported on during the year. The average number of boys on the roll differed little from last year, viz., 634, and their respective nationalities were in about the same proportion.

It is noticeable that more than four-fifths of the boys were Chinese, and 12 only were descendants of Europeans.

The expenditure for the maintenance of the school during the year was as follows :

	$	cts.
Masters' salaries - - -	8,329	96
Wages of servants - - -	240	00
Miscellaneous - - - -	841	09
Total - - -	9,411	05

This is exclusive of cost of repairs to the school buildings which are executed by Government.

The cost of education per head in the school is, therefore, $15, and the boys' payments average somewhat less than half that amount.

The course of education is that laid down under the Government scheme, but the difficulty of conveying to the boys an intelligent knowledge of the English language is still complained of. The boys are found to read fluently, but they fail to apprehend the meaning of what they read.

To improve the school in this direction, it is proposed to obtain more English masters, and the aid of the Government has been solicited.

It is also hoped that benefit will be derived from the opening of Government elementary schools up to Standard III., the boys being then drafted off to the Free School.

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Christian Brothers' School.

Mr. E. C. Hill, the Superintendent of Education, reports in regard to this school, that the average enrolment of boys during the year was 192, whose attendance averaged 154 or 80 per cent. These figures show an increase as against the returns of the preceding year, when the average number on the rolls was 177, and the average attendance 136 or 77 per cent.

56. The boys were taught by Brother Aloysius and five assistants, and it is noticeable here that not 35 per cent. of the boys were Chinese, the major portion being the descendants of Europeans.

The course of instruction has remained the same. The boys in this school possess the advantage of a more direct intercourse with the teacher after school hours.

The additional class-room accommodation referred to in last year's report, has been nearly completed.

The school at Paulau Tikus, Mr. Pasqual, was also well reported on by the Inspector of Schools, the passes reached 63 per cent. of those possible.

Vernacular Schools.

The attendance at these schools has averaged 481, out of an average number on the roll of 691 or 70 per cent.

The pupils in these schools are all Malays or "Jawipekans," a class of Malays by intermarriage with natives of India.

During the year a Superintendent of Education was specially appointed for the settlement, to ensure a more regular and constant supervision of the schools than the Inspector of Schools residing at Singapore was able to afford. A further advantage sought to be attained was to extend to Penang the system of public instruction by branch schools as feeders to the Free School—the principal school in Penang in which a secular education is given.

X.—*Ecclesiastical Department.*

There is little to record. The seat-rents in St. George's Church are not now paid into the Treasury as before, but a report is furnished annually to the seat-holders by the Chaplain.

The average number that attended morning service was 64, and evening service 123, and the greatest number that attended the two services together on one day was 372.

During three months of the year, while the Chaplain, the Reverend J. Walker was on leave, the Reverend H. M. D. Courtney officiated as Chaplain.

XI.—*Medical.*

Dr. Hampshire, the Senior Medical Officer, reports that the general health of the Settlement during the year has been good; cases of small-pox have from time to time been reported, but only in one locality, in a village in the country, did the disease assume an epidemic form.

The want of a proper hospital at the Settlement is again insisted upon, and it is satisfactory to know that suitable buildings for the treatment of both European and Native sick will shortly be commenced.

General Hospital

During the year there were 61 Europeans and 587 Natives treated in the present General Hospital building. Amongst the former 4 died, and 3·40 per cent. of the latter.

The doctor especially notices the number of admissions from alligator bites, requiring, in most cases, the amputation of the injured limb.

Pauper Hospital.

At the Pauper Hospital, in addition to the two new wards completed in 1879, two others have been finished and occupied.

The number of admissions during the year amounted to 1,350, which, with 334 remaining, made a total number of 1,684 as compared with 1,847 in 1879.

The per-centage of deaths in this hospital was 13·11 per cent., against 15·75 per cent. last year.

Leper Hospital..

At the Leper Hospital at Pulau Jerajah 79 were treated during the year; the death rate here was 34·17 per cent.

It must, however, be borne in mind, that the patients are admitted at an advanced stage of the disease, and much improvement cannot, therefore, be anticipated.

A resident apothecary is now stationed there, and a very careful treatment of each case with the Gurjon and Chaulmoogra oil is being carried out.

The establishment is visited once a week by the Senior Medical Officer, and a special report, on each occasion, forwarded to the Government.

Gaol Hospital.

The health of the prisoners in the gaol has been generally good throughout the year, but the disease beri-beri broke out suddenly amongst the local prisoners, after the receipt of 186 long-sentenced prisoners from Singapore, resulting in 61 admissions from among the Penang prisoners, but fortunately in only two deaths.

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No doubt the early recognition of the disease and its treatment by medicines and diet rendered it less virulent than at Singapore, but whether due to this, or to better sanitary conditions, or both combined, is, in Dr. Hampshire's opinion, yet undetermined.

He is of opinion that of the three following possible causes of the outbreak of this singular disease in this prison, viz. :—

1st.—Contagion through personal contact,
2nd.—Food supply, or any article therein.
3rd.—Propagation of disease through excreta,

the latter is the most probable.

The number of patients treated in the Gaol Hospital was 505.

Under the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, 14,853 women were examined, being an excess over 1879 of 1,100.

Vaccination.

Vaccination, in both town and country, was carried on throughout the year, there being 790 treated in town, and 490 in the country; but this number was somewhat less than it should have been, owing to the illness of the public vaccinator for some months.

XII.—*Judicial.*

The following number of persons tried for offences, and of civil cases adjudicated by the Supreme and other Courts of Justice in the Settlement, will afford an idea of the amount of work performed in each of the Courts during the year :—

Supreme Court.

Criminal side - - -	171 persons.
Administration - - -	188 cases.
Probate - - - -	38 do.
Bankruptcy - - -	4 do.

Magistrates' Courts.

Penang - - -	7,594 cases
Province Wellesley - -	4,883 do.
Marine Magistrate's Court, Penang - - -	183 do.

Courts of Requests.

Penang - - -	2,216 cases.
Province Wellesley - -	718 do.

XIII.—*Gaols.*

Captain Spens, Her Majesty's 3rd Buffs, the Acting Superintendent of Prisons, who in the month of August took charge of the prison, reports as follows:—

Number of Prisoners and Employment.

On the 1st January 1880 there were 6 Europeans and 278 Native prisoners. During the year there were admitted 79 Europeans and 2,246 native prisoners sentenced by local courts, and 186 native prisoners were received from the Singapore Prison during the outbreak there of beri-beri. The number of deaths were 19, released by remission of sentence 20. 49 prisoners were transferred to Singapore and Labuan, or to lunatic asylums, 1 absconded, and 2,373 were discharged on expiry of sentence.

The average daily number of prisoners was: Europeans 7·80, and natives 437·09, and the total cost of maintenance was: for Europeans $333 97, or $3 93 per head, and for natives $9,260 76, or $3 66 per head.

The European prisoners were mostly from the army, and some few from the mercantile marine. Their conduct was satisfactory, and there was very little sickness amongst them.

The number of long-sentenced prisoners amongst the natives necessitated the appropriation of all the cells, 296 in number; the Europeans were, therefore, confined in association, but separately employed at stone-breaking. The employment of the native prisoners was confined to stone-breaking, rattan-work, tailoring, &c., the task at the former being 7 cubic feet of hard granite per diem broken to 1″ gauge.

All lower grade and short-sentenced prisoners were employed daily for two hours at shot-drill, morning and afternoon.

Of female prisoners there were only on an average 2·11 per diem, and they were employed under their matron in sewing.

Conduct of Officers.

The European staff was well reported on, but amongst the native warders there were two instances of conveying letters outside to prisoners' friends, and in each case a sentence of two months' rigorous imprisonment was passed by the Magistrate. A temporary addition to the staff of four privates of the Buffs and six natives was made during the year, in regard to whose conduct there was no complaint.

Conduct of Prisoners.

The superintendent reports their conduct as having been fairly good. Only seven were punished for assaulting native warders, and during the year there was a rumour of an attempt of outbreak, but this was frustrated through the vigilance and extra precautions taken by the gaoler, Mr. T. H. Lamb.

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Executions.

Eight persons were condemned to death during the year and duly executed.

The following statements show the number of prisoners, according to nationality, admitted into the prison during the last seven years, and by whom and what court those admitted in 1880 were sentenced:—

Comparative Statement showing the Number of Prisoners, according to Nationalities, admitted into Criminal Prison, Penang, during the past seven years.

Nationalities.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Europeans - -	85	77	155	95	114	111	79
Chinese - -	718	679	693	924	1,292	1,164	1,110
Malays - -	190	190	141	138	207	171	201
Indians - -	599	576	678	1,024	1,260	1,096	1,121
Total -	1,592	1,522	1,667	2,181	2,873	2,542	2,511

Statement showing by whom and what Court Prisoners admitted into the Criminal Prison, Penang, during the year 1880 *were sentenced.*

	Number.
Supreme Court, Penang - - -	89
Police Magistrate, Penang - -	731
Police Magistrate, Province Wellesley -	1,426
Marine Magistrate, Penang - -	12
Officer Commanding Troops, Penang -	45
Officer Commanding Royal Artillery, Penang.	17
Re-captured and sentenced by Police Magistrate, Penang.	1
Re-admitted after appeal on confirmation of original sentences, Police Magistrate, Penang.	2
Re-admitted after appeal on confirmation of original sentences, Police Magistrate, Province, Wellesley.	2
Transferred from Singapore - Supreme Court, Singapore.	76
Transferred from Singapore - Supreme Court, Malacca	16
Transferred from Singapore - Court, Pêrak - -	1
Transferred from Singapore - Police Magistrate, Singapore.	10
Re-transferred from Singapore, Supreme Court, Penang.	81
Re-transferred from Singapore, Police Magistrates, Penang.	2
Total - -	2,511

It is satisfactory to observe, that discipline has been well maintained in the prison during the year, notwithstanding the slight excess in the number of prisoners for which the gaol is built.

The number cannot be reduced until the completion, early in 1881, of one of the blocks of the new Central Gaol at Singapore, when the excess will be remanded to that Settlement.

XIV.—*Police.*

The conduct of the whole Force, under the active control of Superintendent R. W. Maxwell, has been generally satisfactory. Especial attention is drawn to the smartness, without a single exception, of all the inspectors.

In the detective branch some much needed improvements have been made during the year.

The town has been free from any serious disturbance, though petty quarrels continue to be frequent amongst the members of secret societies.

The power and influence of the Red and White Flag Societies, which number only Mahomedans amongst their members, is especially noticed as being on the increase. These societies are not formed for any benevolent or useful purpose and give much trouble to the police.

During the year there has been an unusual increase in crime; 16 cases of murder have occurred, 11 of which were sent for trial, and in nearly every case a conviction was obtained. There have also been some daring cases of gang robbery, notably that committed by a gang of Chinese in the house of Mr. Durnford, a planter in Province Wellesley; several persons were arrested, and four were sentenced to imprisonment for life. Two of the prisoners formed part of the gang concerned in the Pangkor tragedy.

A system of organised crime by the Chinese is undoubtedly spreading, and to aid in the detecting and breaking up of these gangs it is recommended that the police stations in Penang and Province Wellesley should be early connected either by the telegraph or telephone.

XV. *and* XVI.—*Public Works.*

The expenditure on public works during the year has been the largest since 1876, and amounted to $111,122 16.

Civil Works.

The following are the principal civil works carried out:—

Police.

A new station in Hutton Lane, new police barracks at Datu Kramat Station, improvements at Pulau Betong and Permatang Bindari stations. Quarters for an Assistant Superintendent of

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police at the Central Station, new station at Jelutong, quarters at Balik Pulau, improvements at Relau Station.

Post Office.

A new building commenced.

Public Offices.

New office for the Protector of Chinese.

Gaols.

Improvement to roof, ventilation, and sleeping places.

General.

Besides other improvements to public grounds in the town, viz, at Anderton Lodge ground, and the enclosure wall to St. George's Church,—

96. There were special services for Government House and the Convalescent Bungalow on the hill.

Military Works.

On military works there was expended a sum of $13,666 67, being $7,322 46 over the average of the preceding seven years.

The new works comprised a new quarter for the Senior Medical Officer, special services at Fort Cornwallis, and to the military hospital and buildings attached.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

Under the head of roads, streets, and bridges there was a sum of $49,286 87 expended, being $13,886 69 over the average of the preceding seven years.

The principal works done were in re-metalling the following roads or portions of them:—

Jalan Bahru,
Maklom to Aur Gading,
Merbau Kudong to Nior Sebatang,
Butterworth to Kwala Prai,
Permatang Pau to Bagan Lalang,

in addition to widening and metalling the road from Kwali Prai to Sungei Rambei village, re-constructing the causeways at Bagan Lalang Ferry, and raising the road there, with special repairs and extension of causeways of the Prai ferry.

Over and above these works there was the usual maintenance of the hill roads, Province Wellesley roads, bridges, Coolie stations, Muda bund, the canals, and ferries.

Survey.

There has been less survey of allotment work done in this branch of the department during the year by 5,764 acres. The decrease is due to the diminished staff, but towards the close of the year two surveyors were temporarily engaged. The area of the circuit surveyed during the year was 226 miles.

During the year the following changes in the staff of the department occurred:—

Mr. Magalhaens was relieved by Captain McCallum, R.E., as Deputy Colonial Engineer, and Mr. F. C. Sheppard rejoined the department under sanction of Government. The Penang staff was further strengthened towards the close of the year by a draftsman, field assistant, and an apprentice.

J. F. A. McNAIR,
Major, R.A.,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor,
Penang.

MALACCA.

No. 18.

The Acting Resident Councillor, MALACCA, to the Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements.

Resident Councillor's Office, Malacca,
May 19, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying report on the Settlement of Malacca for 1880.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. F. A. HERVEY,
Acting Resident Councillor.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue of this Settlement for the year under review amounted to $182,323 92, against $148,103 17 in 1879, showing an increase of $34,220 75.

This increase occurred chiefly under the heads of land, farms, and fines, forfeitures, and fees of court, which contributed, respectively, as follows:—

—	1879.		1880.		Increase.	
	$	cts.	$	cts.	$	cts.
Land - - -	45,690	65	49,617	06	3,926	41
Farms - - -	69,721	00	101,926	00	32,205	00
Fines, &c. - -	3,398	06	6,366	03	2,967	97

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All other heads of revenue were likewise more productive in the past year than in 1879, with the exception of stamps and reimbursements, which show a decrease, as follows:—

—	1879.	1880.	Decrease.
	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
Stamps - -	12,619 86	11,635 87	983 99
Reimbursements - -	13,226 05	8,240 51	4,985 54

The increase in farms, $32,205, is owing to the higher rate at which they have been let, viz., $8,300 per month, against a previous $5,600; in the new letting, however, is included the Toddy Farm, which had previously been let for $62 per mensem.

This increase, more than any other, perhaps, testifies to the real progress made by the Settlement.

The increase of $2,967 97 under the heads of fines, forfeitures, and fees of court is to be attributed chiefly to the greater number of excise and land cases in the Police Court.

The decrease in stamps, $983 99, is: revenue $142 94 and judicial $841 05.

The falling-off, $4,985 54, in reimbursements may be accounted for by an increasing reluctance to receive survey fees on account of lands which had no prospect of being surveyed within a reasonable period of time, the strength of the Survey Department being quite unequal to the demands made upon it. Refunds have been constantly made of these payments, parties preferring to have their money to waiting any longer for a lease.

The expenditure shows an increase of $13,344 28, being $174,333 85 for 1880 as against $160,989 57 in 1879, which is accounted for under the following heads chiefly:—

	$
Salaries - - - - -	1,523
Office contingencies - - -	308
Revenue services exclusive of establishments	1,970
Medical - - - - -	311
Gaols - - - - -	928
Lighthouses - - - -	346
Transport - - - -	474
Works and buildings - - -	948
Roads, streets, and bridges - -	7,386
Special expenditure - - -	1,004

There being a decrease, on the other hand, mainly under the following heads:—

	$
Ecclesiastical - - - -	227
Education - - - -	478
Police - - - - -	867
Miscellaneous Services - - -	310

Land.

The land revenue proper shows an increase of $3,926 41, being $49,617 06 in 1880, against $45,690 65 in 1879, which occurred chiefly as follows:—

	$
(*a.*) Premium on leases - - -	2,026
(*b.*) Tenths on tin - -	432
(*c.*) Tenths on padi - -	712
(*d.*) Wood oil (including tenths on tapioca and gambier) - - -	3,153
(*e.*) Tenths on fruit - - -	214
There was a decrease on :—	
(*f.*) Land-rents - - - -	2,465
(*g* Timber-royalty - - -	181

(*a.*) As there are numbers of cases still undealt with, the increase under this head is likely to continue.

(*b.*) The increase in the tin-tenths was due to increased supervision.

(*c.*) It is satisfactory to see signs of an increase in padi cultivation.

(*d.*) This also indicates increased activity in the Land Office, resulting, as it does, chiefly from the discovery of encroachments.

(*e.*) This increase is, no doubt, due to the same cause, but taking the average of seasons, it must be concluded that this collection has not yet approached the amount that ought to be realised.

(*f.*) This falling-off indicates a want of strictness in dealing with lessees merely. It is necessary to insist upon a punctual payment of rent.

(*g.*) The timber-royalty is not at all a satisfactory mode of dealing with our timber, the supply of which has been and is fast diminishing, the reserves having been encroached upon to a considerable extent.

The Government, under the present system, gets a very inadequate return in the shape of tenths, while the timber-cutter, or the *towkay* for whom he is cutting, makes an enormous profit.

The falling-off in reimbursements has been already remarked on.

The number of leases issued in 1880 was 120, representing 29,180 acres against 98 in 1879 representing 18,224 acres.

I fully endorse the remarks made by Major Squirl on the unsatisfactory nature of the tenths system, which may, I trust, in time be gradually superseded.

* * * * *

There was a decrease in expenditure of $596 58, occurring chiefly under the heading of salaries.

Sixty-seven cases were taken into the Police Court, producing fines to the extent of $1,552.

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Altogether, the efforts of the Land Department for 1880 from a comparative point of view, may be considered satisfactory, and may be regarded as offering a hopeful prospect for the future.

Public Works Department.

In this Department the expenditure for the year was $51,860 34 as against $43,525 66 in 1879, showing an increase of $8,334 68.

Of this the chief items were $3,870 spenton civil buildings (including the Store department), $7,386 on roads and streets.

On military works there appears a decrease of $2,922, which is due to the expenditure on the new barracks for European troops erected in 1879.

The chief works executed or completed during the year were: the lighthouse at Pulau Undan; new police station at Brisu; new barracks for married constables at Pengkalan Rama, Sungei Rambei, and Sĕlandan; quarters for Marine Police; female ward at General Hospital; gangrene ward; shingle roof and oil well to Cape Rachado Lighthouse; and special repairs to Malacca Pier.

The expenditure on roads has been somewhat thrown away, owing to a want of proper supervision.

The Department is undermanned in respect of overseers.

* * * * *

Survey Department.

During the year 1880, 48,353 acres of tapioca land were surveyed, of which 8,878 were encroachments, against 32,081 acres in 1879, of which 3,506 were encroachments.

Of the amount surveyed in 1880, 4,189 acres were surveyed by contract.

The lands cannot be adequately dealt with until this Department has been considerably strengthened.

Medical.

During 1880 the health of the Settlement was good, a few cases of measles and mumps only having occurred.

The total number of cases treated in the General Hospital was 250, against 277 in 1879, of these 244 were discharged cured, four died, and two remained on over the year.

In the Lock Hospital, 94 were treated, 92 of whom were discharged cured, the two others staying in after the 31st December.

In the Pauper Hospital were treated 687 cases against 567 in the previous year. Of these, 535 were discharged, seven transferred, 14 absconded, 72 died, and 59 remained over 31st December.

Five cases of beri-beri were treated, and all cured.

The number of cases in the Leper Hospital was 28, the death per-centage was 10·71.

Gurjon oil treatment was unsuccessful, because patients would not continue it long enough.

The number of persons vaccinated was 1,870, against 1,400 last year. 1,631, or 87 per cent., of these were successful, at an expense of 47½ cents. each.

Gaol.

Two hundred and twenty-four (224) prisoners were received into the Criminal Prison during the year as against 241 in 1879. 30 long-sentenced prisoners were also received from Singapore ill with beri-beri, all of whom recovered. 210 prisoners were discharged.

Of the number received, 12 were Europeans, 123 Chinese, 65 Malays, and 24 Indians; 36 could read and write, while 218 could do neither.

Of 100 cases of punishment, eight were reductions to lower grade, 14 flogging, and nine flogging and solitary confinement.

The Civil Prison contained 292 persons, of whom 284 were disposed of, 8 remaining in custody at the end of the year.

Of these 11 were debtors and 14 lunatics under observation.

There were no escapes during the year.

The daily average of sick in Civil Hospital was 9·44 to a daily average of prisoners of 64·61.

There were no sick among the civil prisoners.

The expenditure for the year was $6,461 89, against $5,168 76 in 1879. The $1,293 13 increase arises chiefly on the items of rations for warders and prisoners, clothing and accoutrements for warders, medical comforts, and salaries.

Postal Department.

The revenue amounted to $907 11, showing an increase of $116 34, and the expenditure to $765 03, an increase of $14 over that of 1879.

Letters received number 16,339 more than in 1879, and those despatched 2,916 more.

United Kingdom orders were issued for $736 17, an increase of $130 59 upon the previous year. While $41 06 was paid, being $39 41 more than in 1879.

Local orders were issued for $1,323 61, $228 53 less than in 1879, $1,202 51 were paid, a decrease of $2,026 92, which is accounted for by a planter in Singapore discontinuing remittances to Malacca by post office orders, which in 1879 reached the amount of $2,376. Money orders to China, though they amounted to only $69 47, still show an increase of $22 72 over those of 1879. No orders were paid on this account.

The accounts of this Department show a satisfactory progress, and join with other Departments in giving evidence of the steady advance in prosperity now being made by this Settlement.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

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Judicial.

Twenty-three cases, comprising 44 persons, were sent up for trial. Of these 21 were convicted and 7 acquitted, while a *nolle prosequi* was entered against 12, and 4 were left pending. In 1879 there were 28 cases, involving 49 prisoners.

On the plea side of the Court there were 97 cases, with an amount in dispute of $33,546 39.

On the ecclesiastical side were 92 cases of administration, with property sworn under $219,490, $160,000 of which belonged to one estate.

There were 20 cases of probate, involving an amount of $101,580.

The number of police cases in the Magistrate's Court for the year was 934, against 938 in 1879. The summons cases were 928, against 452 in 1879.

Two persons were convicted before two Magistrates.

The fines and fees of all the courts show an increase of $2,947 06, being $6,345 12 against $3,398 06 in 1879, which is accounted for by the increase in land and excise cases.

There is a decrease in fees alone, due to the reduction of the scale from the 1st October 1880.

In the Court of Requests the number of cases was 955, involving a sum of $13,957 against 1,463 in 1879, with an amount in dispute of $11,997.

The number of cases undefended was 433 against 817 in 1879, while there were only 108 Crown cases against 689 in 1879.

Marine.

The revenue was $901 69 an increase of $27 11 upon 1879, while the expenditure was $4,947 06, an increase of $1,707 05.

This increase was chiefly caused by the establishment of the lighthouse at Pulau Undan.

Imports amounted to $3,817,848, an excess of $599,505 over 1879, while exports, amounting to $3,634,640, show an increase of $864,517.

Police.

There are three Inspectors in this Settlement under the Superintendent, who have all, so far, resided in the town.

The exception is, that during the disturbances between Tampin and Rambau, Sub-inspector Daly was temporarily stationed at Pulau Sebang.

Inspectors would be useful at one or two of the chief country stations, but they should be picked men as to character.

Forty-six constables were added, at higher rates of pay, in September.

There were 78 recruits taken on during the year, while 49 left the force, 8 being cases of desertion, 8 of dismissal, 24 of resignation, 2 of death, and 7 of discharge on account of ill-health.

New station and barracks were completed at Brisu, and new barracks at Pengkalan Rama, Sungei Rambei, and Sĕlandan.

There was only one case of murder in the year, that of a Chinaman who died in hospital from the effects of an assault suffered in his house at Bander Ilir.

The offender died in gaol before the conclusion of his trial.

A woman attempted to murder her husband, and was sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

There were three cases of gang-robbery, in the first of which two prisoners, sent up for trial, were discharged for want of evidence.

In the second case four men were sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment, and in the third two were sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

The deaths registered during the year were 2,078, the births 1,916.

There were 48 inquests held, 20 of which were cases of accidental death, 4 of drowning, 2 of murder, 1 of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, 4 of suicide, and 15 of natural causes, while of 2 the causes were unknown.

Education.

The High School has during the past year made still further progress, showing 274 pupils in the register againsnt 211 in 1879; while the number of pupils presented for inspection was 129, gaining a per-centage of passes of 87 against 114 in 1879, with a per-centage of passes of 80.

There are many drawbacks to this school in its situation, which is very disadvantageous, and in its want of accommodation, which is utterly inadequate and inferior of its kind.

A large school, built upon the best system and in a favourable situation, is imperatively needed to meet what must be the continually increasing requirements of the town. A staff of superior assistants is also much needed.

The vernacular schools show an average monthly attendance of 519, with a monthly average on register of 635. There is ample room for multiplication of these schools, but there are difficulties in the way which, however, I believe, may be overcome by persistent pressure gently applied.

Municipality.

The revenue was $22,428 79, against $17,527 69 in 1879, the increase taking place as follows:—

	$
Assessment on houses - - -	1,115
Taxes on vehicles - - -	2,923
Licenses on dangerous trade - -	623
Miscellaneous - - -	237

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The expenditure was $18,899 against $16,790.

The increase in expenditure was mainly in street lighting, in a less degree in repairs to roads, bridges, &c.

There was a credit balance at the end of the year of $4,932.

The Municipality has no debts.

The Superintendent of Works is the Municipal Engineer, and he has not the time at his disposal to give the necessary attention to the municipal work. There is thus room for improvement, which, it may be hoped, will be shortly secured by a change of arrangements in this respect.

* * * * * *

The general progress of the Settlement during the year under review must be regarded as satisfactory, with an increase under almost every heading of revenue that bids fair to continue.

D. F. A. HERVEY,
Acting Resident Councillor.

HONG KONG.

HONG KONG.

No. 19.

Governor Sir J. POPE HENNESSY, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Hong Kong,
February 8, 1882.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to my Despatch of the 10th of December 1881, transmitting the Blue Book for 1880, I have the honour to enclose a copy of my address on recently opening the Legislative Session. This address endeavours to exhibit in a succinct form the past and present state of the Colony and its general prospects, and I therefore submit it to your Lordship as my report on the Blue Book.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Legislative Council.

Hong Kong, 7th February 1882.

The Governor's Address.

His Excellency Sir John Pope Hennessy, K.C.M.G., opened the Session with the following address:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

In opening the Legislative Session of 1882, I have to inform you that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to confirm and allow 13 of the 14 Ordinances which were passed in 1881.

Macao Extradition Ordinance.

Of these Ordinances, No. 1 of 1881, the Macao Extradition Ordinance, is one which deals with a question that engaged the attention of my predecessors for 40 years; it has now been settled by the negotiations of Lord Kimberley and Lord Granville with the Government of Lisbon. And though undoubtedly the credit of that settlement belongs entirely to the Home Governments, nevertheless the advantage of it will be felt by the Governments of Macao and Hong Kong, for the Executives of both Colonies will now be enabled to deal with fugitive criminals in a way that they could not before.

Penal Laws Reform.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1881, the Penal Laws Amendment Ordinance, now confirmed by the Queen, is not the least important reform in Colonial penal laws that has been effected in our time. It repeals or amends 10 Ordinances, some of them of exceptional severity, and all practically directed against one race only. The Ordinance gives permanent legislative authority to a policy which the royal prerogative enabled me to enforce for some years past in spite of some little local criticism; and henceforth it will be illegal in this Colony to brand any criminal, to have public flogging, to allow flogging in Hong Kong, except for such offences as entail flogging in England, or to allow flogging on the back. The impolitic system now abolished by the Queen and the Legislature of this Colony, though devised for the suppression of crime, had actually manufactured a criminal population and increased crime. This abolition has been followed by the diminution of crime, and a universal feeling throughout the Colony, to which you can all bear witness, that life and property have become more secure in Hong Kong.

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Decrease of Crime.

I have no wish, gentlemen, to weary you with statistics, but I may perhaps quote the authentic figures which have recently been put before me with reference to the class of crimes which some years ago caused so much alarm throughout the Colony. I take the four years during which, as I have just mentioned, under the exercise of the royal prerogative, I practically suspended those penal laws which Her Majesty has now abolished. In 1878 cases of murder numbered seven, and this number was reduced to four in 1879; in 1880 there was one case, and in 1881 two cases. Of cases of robbery with violence from the person, the number was 35 in 1878, 39 in 1879, 25 in 1880, and 19 in 1881. Cases of burglary, or larceny from dwelling-houses, amounted to 113 in 1878, to 101 in 1879, to 53 in 1880, and to 60 in 1881. There were two assaults with intent to rob in 1880, and none in 1881. Taking the total of these really grave crimes, which formerly caused so much apprehension and alarm,—in 1878 they amounted to 173, in 1879 to 145, in 1880 to 81, and in 1881 to 81.

Decrease of Kidnapping.

The only other class of crime to which I will refer is kidnapping. With reference to that crime, you are aware that Lord Kimberley instructed me to approve in his name of a Chinese Society, which now deals practically with the suppression of that crime, acting in concert with the Captain Superintendent of Police. The conseqence is that the smallest number of kidnapping cases that occurred in the four years I have referred to was in 1881, when we had only 50 such cases. This is owing to the operations of the Chinese Society, the skill and energy of the police force, and the action of the Supreme Court in passing heavy sentences on those who are convicted of that offence. I believe that by these means the principal kidnappers are at the present moment locked up in our gaol.

Companies Ordinance.

Amongst the other Ordinances passed in 1881, is Ordinance No. 14, the Companies Ordinance, which introduced some reforms that were pressed upon my attention by my honourable friend, the senior un-official member of the Legislative Council. It is an Ordinance that facilitates the work of those commercial associations that are doing so much to utilise the surplus capital of the Colony.

Revenue.

In connexion with the Appropriation Ordinance for 1882, which Her Majesty has sanctioned, I am laying to-day upon the table some despatches and some financial papers. The financial papers I am putting before you consist, as usual, of the comparative statements of revenue and expenditure of the past year in comparison with that of the preceding year—that is the statement of 1881 compared with that of 1880. I find that the revenue for the year 1881 amounted to over $1,100,000, being the largest revenue ever collected in this Colony. The proceeds of the sale of Crown lands I have always held to represent the capital of the Colony, and therefore in the figures I have given you I do not include that important item. But adding that item, we find that the sum actually collected amounts to $1,309,428. The receipts of the preceding year amounted to $1,056,329, and thus last year the amount collected was more than a quarter of a million in excess of that of the preceding year. Taking the item of stamp revenue,—the total sum collected in 1881 amounted to $173,641, in the preceding year it had reached $127,623, showing an increase of $46,000. In looking through the stamp returns, I find an increase under the great majority of items:—bank notes in circulation, bills of exchange, bank cheques, bills of lading, bottomry bonds, charter parties, transfer of shares, ordinary adhesive stamps, and a large item for conveyances and assignments. This, I need hardly tell you, is the largest revenue ever collected under our stamp Ordinance. When I called upon the collector of stamps in 1880 to estimate the amount which would be collected in 1881, he estimated it at $115,000, so that the increase which occurred that year was largely in excess of his anticipations.

Opium Revenue.

Now, there is one item in our revenue which, compared with the two previous years, showed in 1881 no change, viz., $205,000 from the opium farmer because it had been sold in 1879 for three years. I sold the opium farm in 1879 at an increase of price from $132,000 to $205,000. But it was said that I had rather unduly forced up the price of the farm, and it was anticipated that when next I should have to dispose of the farm it would be sold at a smaller figure than the current rate; and indeed one of my officials, a man of ability and knowledge of the Colony, in a communication he made in London to one of the gentlemen in the Colonial Office, expressed great apprehension with respect to the Opium Farm, and in a memorandum which was transmitted to me by the Secretary of State, he said that there would be a falling off in the opium revenue when the Opium Farm was sold

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this year. However, these anticipations have not been verified; I have sold the Opium Farm for 1882–83 for $210,000 so there has been no falling off in the current revenue, which is $205,000.

Increase in Junk Trade and in Foreign Shipping.

Now, in looking through the items of revenue which I am putting upon the table, you will see that in this return it states that there is a considerable increase in what are called fees of office. The increase in 1881 amounted to $20,215. On analysing that increase, which I do from a return furnished me by my honourable friend, the Colonial Treasurer, Captain Deane, I find the items of that increase are of importance in considering the question of the prosperity of the Colony. I find, for instance, that the items for licenses and fees of junks, which amounted in 1880 to $18,807, increased in 1881 to $19,839. Now, between the years 1880 and 1881, there was also an increase in the foreign shipping, and the foreign steamers purchased by the Chinese. The junk trade has to compete with the coasting steamers, and when we find that the trade of the coasting steamers, and the general foreign shipping of the Colony increasing at the same time with an increase in the junk trade, we have a combination which shows the prosperous state of the commerce of this Colony. With regard to the foreign shipping, I have not yet before me the final returns, but as you are aware, the revenue from the light dues furnishes a certain criterion for the increase or diminution of the foreign shipping trade. I find that the increase on light dues of foreign shipping amounts to $2,660. Well, that seems in itself a small sum, but when you remember that the light dues only amount to one cent. per ton, upon the foreign shipping the small apparent increase means an increase of 266,000 tons of foreign shipping in one year in the harbour. I believe that the tonnage of foreign shipping cleared and entered in Hong Kong in 1881 exceeded 8,800,000 tons. There are a few other items, which, though apparently small, undoubtedly indicate mercantile prosperity; those are the increase of our revenues from cargo boats and cargo boats' certificates, from the shipping of sailors, and from the examinations of masters and engineers, upon all of which items there is an increase in the past year. Under the head of miscellaneous receipts, I find an increase in the revenue from the storage of gunpowder and kerosine. The total amount of revenue under the head of miscellaneous items in 1880, was $6,695, whereas in 1881, it was $18,294. The taxation of the Colony is at the present moment at precisely the same figure as it was when I first became Governor of Hong King in 1877, and the increase of revenue in five years, from $885,308 to $1,309,428, is therefore an increase of revenue dependent solely upon the progess and prosperity of the Colony.

Expenditure.

The expenditure in 1880 amounted to $885,204, whereas in 1881 the amount was somewhat larger, viz., $895,985. The difference, you will observe, between the revenue collected in 1881 and the expenditure of that year is about $400,000,—a respectable sum to have gained on the Treasury transactions of the past year, without new taxes, and whilst maintaining the establishments and services in a state of efficiency.

Works and Buildings..

I find that the expenditure on works and buildings in 1881 amounted to $59,781, as compared with $50,568 in the preceding year, showing an increase of $9,000. Under the head of what are called miscellaneous services, there was an increase last year of $11,000. Now, with respect to works and buildings, the items showing an increase consist of repairs to buildings, amounting to $14,098, as compared with $11,923 in the preceding year. One large cause of increase is the typhoon breakwater in Causeway Bay, the expenditure upon which is $30,095. The work is proceding, and will be so far completed before the next typhoon season, as to furnish at that time, if we should have a typhoon, a substantial protection to the junk population. There has been a slight increase in the item of street lamps, which amounts to $21,418. There is an increase in the telegraph service from $2,900 to $5,600. Our telegraphic communications are now connected with all the police stations in the Colony. Two small submarine lines have been laid across the harbour, and you are also no doubt aware that we are substituting iron posts in the place of the ordinary wooden poles. Amongst the other miscellaneous items which account for this increase I find the item of compensation to Mr. Coughtrie of $1,500. That compensation was claimed a considerable time ago, by Mr. Coughtrie, for an injury which he stated was done to his dwelling-house by the bursting of a drain, and he held the Survey Department responsible for it. He applied for $1,500, and after a very long inquiry into the matter, I am happy to say that the Earl of Kimberley sanctioned the claim, and the sum of $1,500 has been paid to him. As to the ordinary services of the Colony, such as the maintenance of an efficient police force, providing a proper staff for the Harbour department, and doing what is required for the other public establishments any necessary expenditure has never been refused by me. As to our roads, streets, and bridges, I am on the whole satisfied with the state they are in. I have, however, intimated to Mr. Price and to Mr. Bowdler that any further assistance required in the Public Works Department, I am prepared to sanction. In 1881 I laid out $12,000 on tree-planting,—a considerable increase on the annual sum ($700) spent on that

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work a few years ago, The good results we all observe from the tree-planting, justify this increased expenditure. On the whole, gentlemen, I think you have no reason to be dissatisfied with the expenditure you have voted, and with the mode in which it has been laid out. There are certain works, which I was anxious to see carried out some years ago, with which at that time the Surveyor-General expressed his inability to deal until the repairs to the Praya Wall had been completed. Four years ago I pointed out the necessity for a new gaol on Stone Cutters' Island. That is a matter which has been pressed very much upon my attention by the Government, and the Earl of Kimberley has now expressed an opinion that that is the only suitable site for the gaol. The new Observatory at Kowloon is a work of Imperial as well as of local importance. The plans and estimates for a new Water Police Station at Kowloon have been laid before Her Majesty's Government. As to the water supply scheme, before I proceeded some months ago to Peking, I instructed Mr. Bowdler to carry out what is known as the Tytam scheme. He asked me to get him some skilled workmen from England for certain technical details. I telegraphed for them, and in the meantime a question has been raised by a gentleman now in the Colony, Mr. Chadwick, as to going back upon the still more expensive scheme, in contrast to the later Tytam scheme, and he is about to report upon the matter to Her Majesty's Government. The Water Police Station has been delayed by a reference, very properly made, to the Surveyor-General, who is now in London. The plans of the Observatory have been referred to eminent scientific authorities in London, and I am awaiting instructions before beginning the work. The question of the gaol is also before the Secretary of State, and having been referred to the Surveyor-General, the question has arisen as to the number of prisoners to be accommodated. When last I addressed you upon the subject, I thought we should provide accommodation for 750, and upon that subject the question has arisen as to how far it might not be desirable to have the gaol on Stone Cutters' Island made to accommodate say 600 or 700, and a lock-up on this side of the harbour for 100 or 200.

Sanitation.

Mr. Chadwick is about to report to Her Majesty's Government upon some questions connected with the sanitation of Hong Kong, questions which have been brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, as appears in the instructions given to Mr. Chadwick, by representations—constant representations, as Lord Kimberley says—by the Officer in Command of the Troops as to the condition of the Chinese houses, and the system of drainage, which he imagined was injuriously affecting the health of the troops under his command. The sanitary state of this Colony is

always a question of great interest to us; and the fact of there being 900 or 1,000 European troops in the Colony gives us an opportunity as it were, by means of the army mortality returns, of testing its sanitary state. I do not by any means assert that the mortality and sickness among the troops shows the general mortality and sickness in the Colony, because, owing to their less temperate habits and other causes, it is generally greater among the troops, but comparing year by year the mortality among the troops, we arrive at some conclusion as to the improved condition or otherwise of the houses in the vicinity of the barracks.

Decreased Mortality of the White Troops.

The complaints to which Lord Kimberley refers were made by the Officer Commanding the Troops in Hong Kong in 1879, 1880, and 1881. I have now, however, before me a return of the mortality among the troops during those three years, and I find that the number of deaths amongst the white troops—that is amongst the men, women, and children of the European troops, amounted to 22 in 1879; in 1880 this had fallen to 20, and last year, 1881, it only amounted to 9, so that as far as these returns, which we have just received from the military authorities, indicate there has been a steady decline in the mortality of the white troops in this Colony of late years.

Decrease in general Mortality.

Now, taking a return of the same years which has just reached me, of the whole population of the Colony, we find that in 1879 the death rate amounted to 32 per thousand, in 1880 it had fallen to 28 per thousand, and in 1881 it had fallen to 24 per thousand The death rate of the European and American residents in Hong Kong in 1881 was 18 per thousand. These figures are eminently satisfactory, as showing the general condition of the health of the Colony, and as showing what mistakes have been made by those who believe that owing to the increase of the Chinese population, or any other cause, the sanitary state of the Colony for the last three years has been getting worse, instead of steadily improving.

Contagious Diseases Ordinance.

In speaking of the health of the troops, there is one topic which I have not referred to before, but which I must touch upon now because I am instructed by the Secretary of State to prepare an Ordinance to deal with what is called the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, No. 10 of 1867. You will no doubt remember that in 1877 I took the responsibility of appointing a Commission to

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Sanitary Improvements.

Though the military and civil returns indicate a steady improvement in the public health, and in the health of the troops, I am

nevertheless not satisfied with the sanitation of the Colony. I think that the town of Victoria might be made a model of sanitation, with its position on the slope of a hill, the possibility of obtaining an almost unlimited supply of water for drinking and washing purposes, and, above all, having here a native population who will readily carry out the Chinese custom by which the sewage and refuse is carried out of the town, and used for agricultural purposes. Having a population accustomed to that sensible practice, I have very little doubt this Colony can be made a model of sanitation. I observed the other day that Professor Huxley said that some Oriental nations that we had been in the habit of calling barbarous, were actually more civilised than ourselves in the mode in which they treat sewage. He exposed the danger to public health of the existing European system. It is a subject in fact in which we may have something to learn from the Chinese. In England people are now considering the evils of the underground drainage system carrying off excrementitious matter by water supply. Eminent sanitary authorities seem now to be in favour of what is called the Chinese process.

Baths and Wash-houses.

There are, no doubt, in this Colony other things necessary for good sanitation. Eighteen months ago I called for information from the Survey Department as to the establishment of baths and wash-houses for the poor, and recently I have been again in communication with the leading Chinese inhabitants of the Colony on the subject, and the result is that a system of private baths which now exists to some extent for Chinese, for which 20 cash, that is, two cents, are paid for a single bath—that system can be extended, and I believe the poor will be able before long to avail themselves of baths and wash-houses where the payment will be extremely moderate, that is, beginning at a scale of one or two cash. These baths and wash-houses, with a supply of warm water, can be built without much cost. You will require a certain number of them, and when the plans are completed I will have much pleasure in submitting them to you and asking for the small vote that their cost will entail.

Land Sales.

I have told you that the item from the sale of Crown lands, which reached in 1881 the sum of $205,680, I was not disposed to treat as one of actual revenue. With respect to that item there has also been some expression of opinion in the Colony. I have seen it stated that the sale of Crown lands effected in 1881 was a speculative sale, that the Crown sold lands for sums far higher than purchasers were entitled to pay, and that the land so sold would not be applied to practical purposes, but was in reality

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intended for speculative purposes, that is, for being sold from one person to another, no buildings being erected upon the lots. You are well aware that at one time in the history of this Colony such things occurred. A similar charge appears to have been made as regards the sale of the Crown lands in 1881. This is a matter of public interest, and I have therefore asked the Surveyor-General to favour me with a return of the various lots sold in 1881 by the Government, with a statement as to what has been done or is proposed to be done with the land so sold. Now, I find that the first lot sold was inland lot No. 509. It was sold for $3,500 to a Chinese gentleman, and upon that lot he is erecting a number of houses. The next lot sold in 1881 was lot No. 26 at Kowloon, a marine lot. That has been sold to the Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Company, a company, as you know, one of the most flourishing of its kind in the East, which is doing an immensity of good in the Colony. That was purchased with a view to the erection of houses for the workmen employed at the dock, but the buildings are not yet commenced. The next I see was a lot sold to Messrs. Belilios and Chater, for $12,525 and upon that lot godowns and houses are to be erected during the current year. Though the godowns are not yet finished some of them are actually let, such is the demand for business premises in the Colony. The next lot was a small one, sold for $1,768, purchased by a European gentleman for a lawn tennis ground which has been constructed. The next lot, for $2,025, was also sold to my enterprising friend, Mr. Chater, and upon that lot there have been erected four godowns for the storage of kerosine oil, and they will contain about 120,000 cases. The buildings are nearly completed. There was a small inland lot sold to Mr. Ede, which is still unoccupied.

Chinese Sugar Refinery.

Two very important lots were sold at Bowrington to Lai Wai Yeung, one for $10,025 and the other for $6,025, and upon those lots that Chinese gentleman is constructing, as you all may see, a large sugar refinery. The site selected is one that, as you know, remained perfectly idle and grass-grown up to this year. It is between the premises of Jardine, Matheson, & Co. and the city of Victoria. Upon that ground the sugar refinery is now being built. It is the first time that a sugar refinery, as such, has been constructed in the Colony of Hong Kong, for the sugar refinery a little further to the east, which is called the East Point Sugar Refinery, consists of buildings which were constructed originally with a view of doing something to remedy the inconvenience felt with regard to the currency of the Colony by establishing here a mint. Sir Hercules Robinson constructed those fine buildings for a mint. They were subsequently sold—I think it was unfortunate—for less than a third of what they cost, but I am bound to say they are now usefully employed by an energetic company, the China Sugar Refining Company. With regard to the sugar

refinery being built by the Chinese a little nearer the town, the machinery for that building is being obtained from Scotland; it is of the best kind, with all the latest improvements, and the machinery and buildings will cost about $350,000. I find that a small lot, inland lot No. 622, was sold for $510 to a European gentleman for the storage of timber. Next there is a lot sold for $2,525 to another European gentleman for kerosine godowns. These godowns have been nearly completed. The next lot, a small one, sold for $205, is still unoccupied.

Sea Wall and Godowns at Kowloon.

I come now to a very important sale that was effected at Kowloon of marine lots No. 20 and 21, sold, one for $29,025 and the other for $24,025. They have been purchased by Mr. Chater. The ground is now being reclaimed from the sea. I had an opportunity some time ago of examining the plans and estimates, and with respect to that important work I have been furnished by Mr. Danby with a memorandum in which he states—

"The ground on the beach at Kowloon between Tsimtsa-tsui and the Royal Naval Coal Sheds was sold lately by Government to some influential capitalists in the Colony, who propose utilising it for commercial purposes by erecting large godowns and coal sheds thereon. The ground will be reclaimed by them, a strong sea wall being erected in front and for the whole length of the ground, wharves will also be constructed at intervals along the front of the sea wall so that vessels of large tonnage can lay alongside and either discharge or take in cargo, at any state of the tide and in all weathers, this position being sheltered from typhoons and strong gales by the Kowloon hills. Men-of-war and steamships anchor immediately in front of this place during the typhoon season. The storage capacity of the whole of the godowns will be about 375,000 tons, and the capital that will have been laid out on the project when completed will exceed one million dollars."

I find the next lots are lots bought by European gentlemen as sites for bungalows on the hills.

Large New Dock.

Next we come to a lot, at Belcher's Bay, which was sold for $36,100. On that lot there will be constructed a dock of large dimensions, for some of the Chinese gentlemen who purchased that valuable piece of Crown land have expressed to me their regret that Her Majesty's ship "Inconstant" should be seen leaving this harbour to proceed to Nagasaki to be docked, and they undertake that when they have an opportunity of making their new dock, Hong Kong will then have a dock capable of taking in the largest vessel in Her Majesty's service. I find certain

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works which were undertaken in Duddell Street, and for a small portion of which some Crown land was sold. My honourable friend on my left (Mr. Belilios) has those works in hand also. Upon that site there is now being built, as you see, substantial and magnificent godowns, and I think some of these, as many as nine of them, though not yet finished, are actually let.

New Sugar Refinery.

Finally, I come to inland lot No. 837, which was sold for $24,500 to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire. That is a lot about halfway between this and Shau-ki-wán, at a place called Quarry Bay, and the only reason why any one can speak of the Government having got larger prices than it ought to expect for land is that with reference to the sale of this lot an incident occurred which might give rise to the idea there was some speculation. I think it was $6,000 that in consulation with Mr. Bowdler we arranged as the sum at which the upset price for that lot should be fixed. I may mention that, as usual in such cases, I received representations that the upset price was somewhat too high. From time to time in 1881, with respect to the lots at Bowrington especially, I myself ventured considerably to increase the upset price the Survey Department recommended. Representations were made to me on the subject, but I did not feel justified in reducing the price. But with respect to this particular lot I understand, in fact, it is a matter of notoriety, commented on in the public press, that though the upset price was something like $6,000, a gentleman attended at the sale and ran the price up to $24,500. Well, there can be no doubt whatever from all I understand, if that gentleman had obtained the lot for $24,500, it would not have been for the purpose of erecting upon it a sugar refinery. Messrs. Butterfield and Swire intend to put upon it a sugar refinery, which I am disposed to think will be one of the best sugar refineries in Her Majesty's Colonial empire. When I was Governor-in-Chief in the Windward Islands I had an opportunity of seeing a remarkable sugar refinery built at St. Lucia, which at that time was supposed to be the best in the British Colonies. Having seen the plans and estimates of the new sugar refinery, with an account of the machinery now on its way out, obtained from Blake, Barclay, & Co., of Greenock, I have no hesitation in saying we are about to have a sugar refinery in Hong Kong that can compete with the large refinery at St. Lucia. This new manufactory will consist of a building having nine floors; it will be constructed to a great extent of iron, on the modern system and with the latest machinery. The total sum which will be expended on the undertaking when completed will not be far short, I believe, of 200,000*l.*

Now that is, gentlemen, a detailed account of what was done with the Crown lands sold by me in 1881. There is nothing in

that narrative showing what is called land speculation; on the contrary, it shows that the commercial wants of the Colony have been increasing, that the necessity of providing more godowns has been felt by the merchants, and that our manufactures are increasing, and you will notice, that not only has there been an increase of enterprise and prosperity on the part of the foreign community, but also on the part of the Chinese.

Public Works by Private Enterprise.

Some weeks ago I observed that the Secretary of State for India, Lord Hartington, looked forward hopefully to the time when certain public works in India would be undertaken by private enterprise. When you consider what is done by the Survey Department in this Colony, you cannot but notice how small the amount really is which we lay out in public works as compared with what may be done by private enterprise and capital when the Colony is prosperous. Sir Hercules Robinson entertained the scheme of forming a Praya Wall at Kowloon and wharves running from it out into deep water so that steamers and ships could go alongside. The expense would have been considerable. The scheme was contemplated by the Government, but it was felt the time had not come for the Government to undertake it. Now it is being undertaken, not by the Government, but by the energy and capital of the Colonists, and I am sure you will agree with me that nothing can be more healthy, as a sign of our prosperity, than that works of this kind should be constructed, not by the Survey Department, but by private enterprise.

Europeans and Chinese alike Prosperous.

But it is manifest that whatever may be said with respect to the prosperity of the Colony, as shown by the revenue returns, by the general commercial activity of the Colony, by the fortunate position of the Colony with regard to the diminution of crime and the greater comfort and ease of every one as regards the protection of life and property, whatever indications of prosperity may thus be seen it is also satisfactory to note that, in the history of Hong Kong, there never was a time when there was more successful enterprise among all classes alike of the community, Europeans as well as Chinese.

Hong Kong Student in London.

There is one class of enterprise, an intellectual enterprise, to which I have great pleasure in referring. Some of my learned friends who are present know that at the examinations at the Inns of Court in London there are young men from Oxford and Cambridge, London University, and King's College, and the chief

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competition is for the studentships or scholarships given at Lincoln's Inn. Last year a young Chinaman born under the British flag in this Colony succeeded at that examination in defeating his competitors from the English, Scotch, and Irish Universities, and in three of the subjects of examination he obtained the first place. This was Mr. Ho Kai, one of the numerous Anglo-Chinese subjects that Her Majesty now has in this Colony. I think it is a matter we may all congratulate ourselves upon. That young gentleman, who has been called to the English bar, will return, I think, this month to the Colony, aud I am sure you will all join with me in welcoming him back.

Chinese Benevolent Investments.

My attention has been called by the Chinese inhabitants to a plan by which wealthy Chinese in this Colony may put aside a certain portion of the money they make, investing it in such a way as to benefit their descendants and also to benefit the general community. This trust property would be administered by a certain number of the Chinese residents, perhaps those who under one of our Ordinances conduct so admirably the affairs of the Tung-wá Hospital, and to that body of gentlemen will be given from time to time considerable sums by wealthy Chinese which will be invested by them, a certain portion, say seven-tenths, to be appropriated so as to benefit the descendants of the donors by giving them education, and in other ways, the remaining three-tenths to be devoted to the public interests of the Colony in general. A scheme of that kind, carefully elaborated, has been recommended to me by what I am justified in describing as the Chinese community of the Colony. I am disposed to give it the most favourable consideration, and I mention it now with satisfaction because it is a further indication of the real progress of Hong Kong. As long as these gentlemen, who, as you know, now represent not only the vast majority of ratepayers but the wealthiest ratepayers in the community — out of the 20 largest ratepayers in 1881, 17 were Chinese (*see table annexed*)—as long as they desire to establish themselves and their descendants in the Colouy for ever, so long we have a guarantee for loyalty and good order. On the whole, gentlemen, in opening the Legislative Session, 1882, I think we can all look forward, without anxiety, to the continued prosperity of the Colony.

Total amount of rates collected in 1876 at 12 per cent. = $184,509 25.
" " " 1881 at 12 per cent. = $221,796 23.

Names of the 20 *Ratepayers paying the largest Amount of Rates for the Years* 1876 *and* 1881.

1876.	Amount.		1881.	Amount.	
	$	c.		$	c.
1. Douglas, Lapraik, and Co.	11,108	92	1. Wo-Hang -	11,397	00
			2. 'Ng Sang -	10,240	00
2. Jardine, Matheson, and Co.	8,453	40	3. Jardine, Matheson, and Co.	7,544	60
3. Kwok Acheong -	6,906	36	4. Yeong Shu-lum	6,876	00
4. T. G. Linstead -	6,527	52	5. Lum Sow -	6,003	90
5. Siemssen and Co.	6,305	44	6. Ho Lai Shi -	5,863	39
6. Turner and Co. -	5,913	72	7. Kwok Ying Kai	5,748	00
7. D. Sassoon Sons and Co.	5,499	00	8. Ching Sing Yeong.	5,730	30
8. J. J. dos Remedios and Co.	4,972	80	9. Lo Shing -	5,624	00
			10. 'Ng Cheong -	5,363	00
9. Lum Sow -	4,475	08	11. Yeong Amow -	4,968	00
10. Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.	3,938	40	12. Tang Luk	4,748	00
			13. Kwok Ying Shew	4,700	25
			14. Low Cheong -	4,690	46
11. Wo Hang -	3,372	48	15. Koo Mun Wa -	4,596	70
12. Lee Shing -	3,154	80	16. Ip Ching Chuen	4,516	00
13. Choy Chan -	2,988	00	17. Douglas, Lapraik, and Co.	4,472	63
14. Coare Lind and Co.	2,965	08			
			18. Choy Chan -	4,048	77
15. Choo Wing Yoong	2,585	40	19. D. Sassoon, Sons, and Co.	4,020	89
16. 'Ng Sang -	2,572	80			
17. W. Curtis -	2,467	44	20. Fung Wing -	3,996	39
18. J. Gerrard -	2,261	28			
19. Yeong Shu-lum -	2,212	20			
20. Gibb, Livingston and Co.	2,110	80			
Total	90,790	92	Total -	115,148	28

Of the 20 principal ratepayers in 1876, 12 were foreign houses contributing $62,523, and eight were Chinese contributing, $28,267.

Of the 20 principal ratepayers in 1881, three were foreign houses contributing $16,038, and 17 Chinese contributing $99,110.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 20.

Acting Governor ANDERSON to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Gibraltar, September 7, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Gibraltar for 1880, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue from all sources for 1880 amounted to 44,828*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, showing an apparent decrease of 2,562*l.*, as compared with the total receipts in the year 1879, which included the sum of 3,000*l.* drawn from invested surplus, through the Crown Agents for the Colonies, in aid of current expenditure.

The total expenditure for 1880 amounted to 43,372*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, being 1,455*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* under the revenue of the year and 1,299*l.* less than the expenditure in 1879.

The assets and liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December 1880, were as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Assets - - -	29,324	9	1¼
Liabilities - - -	1,375	11	7

The surplus funds invested in Government securities and the cash balance in the Treasury Chest on the 31st December 1880, amounted, respectively, to 23,913*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* and 1,907*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

Public Works.

The expenditure on public works may be summarised under the following heads, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
New works - - -	7,112	0	0
Repairs and maintenance -	918	7	8
Roads and streets - -	823	1	6
Miscellaneous - - -	33	2	7
	£8,886	11	9

During 1880, the important work of reconstruction of the civil hospital made substantial progress. No. 1 block was almost completed, and a second contract for the segregation block, dead house, water tower, and male wards was obtained; the work being commenced in the month of June.

At the Old Lunatic Asylum and at the Civil Prison structural improvements were effected to increase the convenience of these establishments.

The scheme for the improvement of the Alameda Gardens was continued, the South Glacis garden being re-formed tastefully, and planted under the direction of the highly competent Italian gardener.

At the north front two quarters for the Marine and Civil Police with a passport office were finished and occupied. The raised promenade made of concrete and protected by a small parapet wall which extends along the eastern beach was completed.

The public cemetery, plantations, gardens, and roads outside the fortress were the object of much care and attention, and present a marked improvement; lastly, the erection of a new cattle shed as an adjunct to the new slaughter-house was commenced.

Legislation.

The most important Laws enacted in the Colony during the year, were :—

An Ordinance to regulate the keeping of dogs.

An Order in Council to amend the sanitary Orders in Council. This Order in Council provides for :—

1. The sale of surplus property by the Sanitary Commissioners.
2. The appointment by the Governor of the Secretary to the Sanitary Commissioners.
3. The reduction of the number of Commissioners appointed under the provisions of the existing Sanitary Orders in Council from twelve to eight, and for the representation on the Sanitary Commission of the War Department, the Colonial Department, and the Naval Department; and,
4. For an improved audit of the Commissioners' accounts.

An Agreement between the British and Spanish Governments respecting telegraphic messages between Gibraltar and Spain.

An Order in Council amending the Sanitary Order in Council, 1865, and vesting in the Secretary of State for war a portion of the Alameda Gardens required for the defences of the fortress.

Shipping.

The number of steam and sailing vessels which entered and cleared from the Port of Gibraltar during the year 1880 was as follows :—

Arrivals.

——	No.	Tons.	Crews.
Sailing Vessels - -	1,508	179,010	10,014
Steam Vessels - -	4,339	3,044,928	104,312
Total - -	5,847	3,223,938	114,326

Clearances.

——	No.	Tons.	Crews.
Sailing vessels - -	1,470	179,370	9,521
Steam vessels - -	4,335	3,039,779	103,799
Total - -	5,805	3,219,149	113,320

Comparing this return with that of the previous year, an increase is shown of 391 steamers and 333,527 tons, and a decrease of 129 sailing vessels and 81,406, tons, thus leaving in the total number and tonnage of vessels collectively an increase of—

262 vessels;
252,121 tons; and
5,242 men (crews).

Criminal Statistics.

The returns of criminal statistics for 1880 contain nothing calling for special remark, no serious crime having been committed during the year. The total number of persons committed before the Police Magistrate and the Captain of the Port was 840, or 46 more than in 1879; the greater number being for minor offences.

Eight cases were tried in the Supreme Court; two offences against the person, four for offences against property, and two for miscellaneous offences.

General Remarks

The Colony was exceptionally free from any infectious disease during the year. The yearly mortality shows that the general sanitary condition of the town has been improving from year to year. The death rate per mille of the civil population having decreased from an average in past years of 29·25 to 22·13 in 1880.

Further and more permanent improvement in the public health may be anticipated from the impending removal of existing old house condemned as unfit for habitation, and their replacement by an improved class of dwellings adapted for the poorer classes, and by the application of rules for the gradual reduction and prevention of the overcrowding which has prevailed in certain localities of the town owing to the insufficiency of proper house acommodation for them.

I have &c,
(Signed) D. ANDERSON, Major General,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Colony of Gibraltar on the 31st December 1880. GIBRALTAR.

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
To cash balance in the strong vault and in the hands of the Treasurer and Collector of H.M.S. Revenues on 31st December 1880 -	1,907	7	6	By Amount overpaid by Crown Agents to 31st December 1880	1,375	11	7
To Interest on invested funds but not yet paid into the hands of Crown Agents, about -	693	3	0				
Capital invested as Surplus Funds -	23,913	10	10				
To outstanding Rent of Crown Lands to 31st December 1880 -	2,810	7	9¼				
	29,324	9	1¼				

ST. HELENA. ST. HELENA.

No. 21.

Governor JANISCH, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, St. Helena, March 6, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1881.

2. The revenue for the year amounts to 12,425*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, being an increase of 475*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* over the receipts for previous year 1880, arising from a larger amount of wharfage received from ships landing cargo for repairs.

3. The expenditure amounts to 12,800*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, an apparen increase over the expenditure for 1880 of 931*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* The payments, however, of the year include a refund to the Government of the Cape of Good Hope of 1,085*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* for advances which had been made in that Colony to pensioners from December 1st 1878 to September 30th, 1880, the accounts for which were not received until 1881. Also an increase of 250*l.* in the instalments payable annually towards the reduction of the debt, which are now made at the rate of 1,000*l.* a year instead of 750*l.* as formerly; so that in the actual current expenditure of the year there has been a saving.

ST. HELENA.

4. A further decrease has taken place in the Pension List by the following deaths:—

	£	s.	d.
Admiral Patey - - - -	500	0	0
David Wilson - - - -	43	18	0
Matthew Carter - - - -	21	5	10
Alfred Isacke - - - -	5	9	6
Charles Rutter - - - -	16	3	4
	586	16	8

Mr. Parker, late Chief Justice at Honduras, having retired from his office on the 1st June last, has been awarded a pension, of which 128*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* is payable from this Colony, for his service as Chief Chief Justice in this Island from 3rd July 1869 to 31st October 1875; this leaves a net reduction in the list of 458*l.* 10*s.* at the close of 1881.

5. Debentures to the amount of 1,000*l.* have been redeemed, reducing the debt to 9,750*l.*

6. The trade returns are nearly similar to those of the preceding year; the imports amounting to 53,169*l.*, and the exports to 2,675*l.*, exclusive of oil transhipped at the port from whalers amounting to 27,680*l.*

7. Five hundred and twenty-five vessels have called at this port during 1881, of which 22 were vessels of war, showing a decrease of 39 vessels as compared with 1880.

8. The principal shipping agents have always regarded the tonnage fee of 1*d.* a ton levied on all merchant vessels calling at the port for supplies as being injurious in its tendency, and causing many vessels to pass by the port. They convened a public meeting on 18th August last, the result of which was that a memorial from a number of the inhabitants was submitted to your Lordship, praying for the abolition of the fee, and suggesting that certain other charges should be made in lieu, sufficient to cover the loss of the revenue hitherto derived from that source. Your Lordship has been pleased to accede to this request, and an Ordinance has been passed bringing the desired change into operation from the present month. The date of the change is therefore too recent to allow of any evidence as to the result, but the shipping agents view with satisfaction the removal of this charge.

9. The large recent demand for immigrants at the Cape of Good Hope, and the favourable terms which are offered for servants in that Colony, has had its influence on the labouring population of this Island, the more so as many of their friends and relations had emigrated in former years, and the Cape Government have expressed their readiness to assist the present emigration by securing contract passages in the mail steamers calling at this Island on their way to the Cape. Persons at the Cape desirous of obtaining servants from St. Helena have to furnish the emigration officer with a description of the servants required, and to

deposit one half the cost of passage and a registration fee (about 4*l.* in all), and on this the servant obtains a passage in the mail steamer. The wages offered are much higher than those usually paid in this Island with better prospective advantages. The cost of the passage is also trifling, and the superiority of the accommodation in a large fast mail steamer is so great as compared with the expensive passages formerly obtained with difficulty in small uncomfortable emigrant ships from this port, that it is impossible to expect otherwise than that it will lead to a serious drain upon the Island labour in future, as the demand at the Cape is practically unlimited upon a small population like this. Servant girls obtain from 20*s.* to 35*s.* a month, their wages in the Island being from 8*s.* to 20*s.* a month, and that only for a very limited number. These form at present the principal class of the emigrants. But although it involves the inconvenience of losing our best servants of that kind, the scarcity of employment for young women in this Island, and the temptation to which large numbers of them are consequently exposed in their idle condition in a seaport and garrison town like this, makes it a matter for congratulation that such an advantageous opening has been provided for them. The labouring men of the Island are hardly more in number than sufficient for the wants of the place, their surplus number having emigrated several years since to Port Nolloth, Cape Town, and Natal, but the inducements held out are so favourable that many of them will find it advantageous to quit their present employments and accept higher wages at the Cape. The number of emigrants in 1881 was only 197, but numerous applications for such servants are now being received.

10. The criminal returns continue like those for some years past to show the absence of serious crime. There was only one conviction in the Supreme Court during the whole year, the offence being that of a petty theft, and there have been no civil actions.

11. The lunatic asylum contains three patients, two of them inmates of long standing, and one admitted during the year; the fair condition of the patients proves that reasonable care is taken of them; but as the asylum is in a distant part of the Island and not easy of access it has long been desired that a more suitable place should be provided in James' Town or its vicinity where daily inspection can be exercised. Efforts are now being made to secure a proper place in town which I hope may prove successful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. R. JANISCH.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

LAGOS.

No. 22.

Governor SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Christiansborg Castle,
Accra, February 27, 1882.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Despatch dated 31st December 1881, which was received at this place on the 1st February 1882.

2. The Despatch is a report from the Lieutenant-Governor on the Blue Book of the Settlement of Lagos for the year 1880, and goes very fully into many matters therein reported.

3. In the 9th paragraph of that Despatch the Lieutenant-Governor, remarking on the revenue of 1880, shows the details under which the falling off of that year is compiled, and a net deficiency of 6,953*l.* is shown (after the small increase on sundry items had been taken off), and the falling of in Customs was not less than 5,957*l.* of it.

4. In the 11th paragraph of this report Mr. Griffith has compiled an instructive return, showing the revenue and expenditure for the Settlement from 1875 to 1880 inclusive.

5. The fluctuations there shown in the revenue are very marked, and they have had an influence in deciding the course of action which the Legislative Council adopted in reference to the proposed expenditure for the service of the year 1882.

6. That action I had the honour to report to your Lordship in a Despatch dated 10th February 1882.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Government House, Lagos,
December 31, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to place before your Excellency my report on the Blue Book of this Settlement for the year 1880. Seven copies of this volume were sent to Accra on the 15th October last, and I regret that various causes of delay have interfered to prevent this report from being sent on earlier.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

2. No change has been made in these since 1878, and they are very moderate.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The receipts for 1880 were 47,987*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, and the expenditure was 55,475*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, exhibiting an excess of expenditure over the revenue of 7,488*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

4. The estimated revenue for 1880 was 46,577*l.* The amount received as shown above was 47,987*l.* so that the estimate was exceeded by 1,410*l.*

5. The estimated expenditure for the year was 40,950*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* and the actual outlay 55,475*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, or in excess of the estimate by 14,525*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

6. This increase arose from causes which could not be foreseen when the estimates were prepared, and was distributed thus:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries and wages	3,010	10	9
Allowances	402	16	2
Public works	1,776	19	0
Harbour master's department	192	5	6
Government vessels	727	6	10
Landing and shipping mails	278	11	0
Hospital	251	1	8
Constabulary, chiefly for arms and ammunition	888	5	10
Gaols	362	0	6
Travelling allowances and passages of officers and kroomen	1,179	4	1
Stationery	124	16	1
Purchase of premises for officers and quarters for colonial secretary and constabulary officers	3,034	0	0
Loss on demonetization of dollars and export of specie	2,545	5	10
Trucks for public works department	204	0	9
Cost of iron safe for Treasury	156	10	5
Printing	107	17	0
Aborigines	329	1	8
Drawbacks	1,042	18	11
Miscellaneous	271	14	3
	16,885	6	3
Less amount of unexpended votes on estimates	2,360	2	7
Net excess of expenditure	14,525	3	8

LAGOS.

6. The available assets of the Settlement on 31st December 1879 were :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Investments in the English Funds through the Crown Agents, Three per Cent. Consols, 20,984*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*, purchased for - - -				20,000	0	0
Balance in their hands due to the Settlement - -				5,086	0	3
Total of assets in England -				25,086	0	3
Remittances in transit to Crown Agents - - -				2,000	0	0
Balance in the Treasurer's hands	8,674	6	10			
Advances due to the Settlement	484	12	0			
Total of assets in the Colony				9,158	18	10
Total available assets of the Settlement on 31st December 1879 - - -				36,244	19	1

7. The balance of assets on 9st January 1880, as shown in the preceding paragraph, was 36,244*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* The revenue collected amounted to 47,987*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, giving a total of funds of 84,232*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* The expenditure of the year was 55,475*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, leaving a balance to credit of the Settlement of 28,756*l.* 6*s.* on 31st December 1880.

8. This balance was constituted as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Invested in Consols 20,984*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* Three per Cents. - -	20,000	0	0			
In the hands of the Crown Agents	5,655	10	1			
Total funds in England -				25,655	10	1
Remittances in transit to Crown Agents - - -				1,000	0	0
Treasurer's working balance -	2,481	19	11			
Advances due to Lagos -	23	4	6			
Less advances for which the Settlement is liable - -	404	8	6			
Net liability of Lagos - -	381	4	0			
Net funds in Lagos -				2,100	15	11
				28,756	6	0

9. The revenue of 1879 was 54,939*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, and of 1880 47,987*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, showing a falling off in 1880 of 6,952*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; but the gross decrease of revenue was 7,221*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, less an

increase in sundry items of 268*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, exhibiting a net deficiency of 6,952*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, which arose in—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs - - -	5,957	8	10
Licenses - - -	215	0	0
Fines, forfeitures, fees &c. -	336	17	3
Miscellaneous receipts -	288	10	0
Government vessels - -	102	1	4
Special receipts - -	265	8	5
Miscellaneous - -	56	1	4
	7,221	7	2

Less an increase of revenue in sundry accounts 268*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, showing the net falling off in revenue stated above of 6,952*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

10. The falling off in Customs is due mainly to the contraction of business arising from the determination of the European houses to curtail the excessive credit they had been in the habit of giving to native traders; to a fall in the prices obtained for produce in the home markets; to the withdrawal of the dollar currency, and the continuance of the war in the interior, which, by stopping the roads, prevents the interchange of merchandize between the remote countries engaged in it and Lagos. As, however, all parties to this disastrous war are getting weary of its continuance, and the Ibadans who began it are making overtures for peace, I hope that before many months have passed hostilities will have ceased, and should this result be obtained, Lagos will benefit considerably.

11. The following figures exhibit the revenue and expenditure of Lagos for the last six years:—

Years.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1875 - - - -	43,366	13	0	44,379	12	0
1876 - - - -	46,392	1	2	45,170	8	9
1877 - - - -	59,389	16	0	42,305	7	5
1878 - - - -	49,359	5	4	49,735	10	4
1879 - - - -	54,939	12	7	45,934	18	10
1880 - - - -	47,987	1	1	55,475	14	2
Total - - -	301,434	9	2	283,001	11	6
Averages - - -	50,239	1	6	47,166	18	7

These figures show a gain of revenue of 3,000*l.* per annum for the last six years. From 1875 to 1879 inclusive the average annual gain was 5,000*l.*, but the large expenditure of 14,500*l.* in excess in 1880 has reduced this, as shown above, by 2,000*l.* a year.

Public Debt.

12. The Settlement is free from any liability of the kind beyond occasionally holding court deposits, &c. temporarily, and has 20,000*l.* invested in the Three per Cents.

Military Expenditure, &c.

13. The Imperial troops were withdrawn from Lagos in 1870. The defensive force of the Settlement is composed of 169 officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, 165 of the number being chiefly of the Houssas tribe, 13 drummers and 20 gunners, who are also Houssas besides an armourer, a priest, and two schoolmasters, total 206. There is also a civil police force of 136 men inclusive of officers. The combined force is thus arranged for distribution :—

——	Constabulary.	Civil Police.	Total.
At Lagos - -	176	108	284
Leckie - -	18	19	37
Badagry - -	12	9	21
Total - -	206	136	342

Besides the police force stated, six detectives are employed who are stationed at Lagos and are kept quite distinct from the police.

14. The arms used are three 7-pounder M.L.R. guns, and three rocket troughs, and breech-loading Sniders, and the gunners have Colt's revolvers. The Colonial gunboat "Gertrude" carries two 7-pounder M.L.R. guns, and an Armstrong Gatling gun; and the rocket troughs are transferred to her when moving about the rivers, when these arms are under the charge of gunners detailed for service from the Houssa force.

15. The expenditure for the maintenance of the constabulary and civil police in 1880 was 9,955*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* + 164*l.* 14*s.* for detectives = to 10,120*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Public Works.

16. The expenditure for these amounted to 1,776*l.* 19*s.* in the year. The new works commenced were the—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Embankment of the Marina; costing on account - - - -	390	17	0
Slaughter-house and meat market -	500	10	9
Fish market - - - -	66	3	10

	£	s.	d.
Isale Gangan bridge - - -	26	11	11
Police stations - - - -	441	12	4
New prison - - - -	71	1	7
New pound - - - -	15	5	7
	1,512	3	0

The total sum expended on public works was 4,221*l.* 14*s.*, and the total cost under the head of this department was 5,512*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*

Legislation.

17. Seven Ordinances were passed at Accra in 1880 relating to this Settlement, namely:—

Ordinance No. 2.—Intituled, "An Ordinance for providing for "the demonetization of certain coins now in circulation and "received in payment in this Colony," dated 29th April 1880.

Ordinance No. 3.—"An Ordinance to give validity to certain "proceedings in the Supreme Court of the Colony," dated 29th April 1880.

Ordinance No. 4.—"An Ordinance to amend the Spirit "License Ordinance, 1875," dated 29th April 1880.

Ordinance No. 6.—"An Ordinance to apply a sum of money "out of the revenue of the Settlement of Lagos required for "defraying the expenses of the civil government of that Settle-"ment for the year 1881," dated 28th August 1880.

Ordinance No. 7.—"An Ordinance for establishing quarantine," dated 1st September 1880.

Ordinance No. 8.—"An Ordinance to amend the Lagos "Pilotage and Harbour Ordinance, 1878," dated 1st September 1880.

Ordinance No. 9.—"An Ordinance to indemnify the sender of "a registered article through the post when a loss happens in this "Colony," dated 1st September 1880.

Proclamations

18. The following relating to Lagos were issued in 1880:—

By his Excellency William Brandford Griffith, C.M.G., that Her Majesty, by a Commission dated Balmoral, 22nd November 1879, had nominated and appointed him to be Lieutenant-Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, and that he had taken and subscribed the usual oaths before his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony at Christiansborg Castle, Accra, on the 28th December 1879, dated 1st January 1880.

By his Excellency H. T. Ussher, C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony, that Ordinances Nos. 2 and 3 of 1880, had been passed in the Legislative Council of the said Colony, and had been assented to by him on 30th April 1880. Dated same day.

LAGOS.

By his Excellency H. T. Ussher, C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony, that the "Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance" shall from the 1st December apply to, and be deemed to apply to, the Eastern and Western districts of the Settlement of Lagos.

Civil Establishment.

19. The changes during 1880 were numerous. The principal were as follows:—

Lieutenant-Governor Griffith arrived on the 1st January to assume the government, relieving Captain Moloney who had been acting as Administrator since August 1878. Governor Ussher visited the Settlement on the 9th June, and assumed the temporary administration of the Government until 7th August, when he returned to Accra. Upon his death Mr. Griffith left for Accra, to conduct the general government by virtue of his Commission, appointing Mr. C. D. Turton to administer at Lagos, pending the arrival of Captain Moloney, who relieved him on 17th December.

Surgeon-Major Frank Simpson was appointed an Assistant Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast Colony, but shortly afterwards went on extended leave and did not return during the year.

Two clerks were placed on the fixed establishment.

One as confidential clerk to the Lieutenant-Governor at 120*l*., and the second as clerk to the local auditor at 100*l*. per annum.

In the Customs Department, Mr. Colin G. Blackburn was appointed as chief clerk and warehouse keeper at 350*l*. per annum, and was subsequently allowed 50*l*. a year for quarters.

For the Public Works Department Mr. J. J. Talman was sent out as a special engineer and surveyor to attend to the erection of various public works, arriving at Lagos on 20th May.

Mr Williams, Inspector of Nuisances, having been compelled by ill health to resign his post, was succeeded by Mr Palomeras.

In the Harbour Master's Department, Mr. Whittington returned from leave on 11th May, and resumed his duties, with an increase of salary from 350*l*. to 480*l*. per annum; and on the retirement of Mr. Ball, Mr. Stephen Sheldon was sent out from England in his place as First Engineer of Government Vessels, arriving on 7th September,; on 12th September Mr. Adamson, the 2nd Engineer, left the Settlement on leave.

In the Medical Department, upon Dr. Simpson's appointment to the post of Assistant Colonial Secretary, Dr. J. D. McCarthy, the Assistant Surgeon, was promoted to be Colonial Surgeon at 500*l*. a year, and with allowances. Dr. King was appointed Acting Assistant Colonial Surgeon on 13th June, and

continued in office until 2nd November, when he was relieved by Dr. Rowland.

In the Constabulary, Assistant Inspector Cuscaden left the Settlement on leave on 7th August. He was succeeded by Assistant Inspector O'Brien, who went on furlough on 2nd November, being relieved by Assistant Inspector Captain Bastow.

In Judicial, Mr. H. W. Macleod was appointed Puisne Judge of the Eastern District and arrived in the Settlement on 24th March, but left it on 7th August for Accra to assume the office of Acting Chief Justice in place of Mr. Marshall, who had gone on leave. Mr Turton was appointed to fill Mr. Macleod's place at Lagos and occupied it for the remainder of the year.

Assistant Inspector Forbes, who arrived on 18th March was appointed Commissioner of the Eastern District, relieving Mr. Elliott who had temporarily filled the post. Mr Forbes was transferred to the Commissionership of the Western District on 2nd November, in succession to Captain Bastow, ordered to Lagos to assume command of the constabulary ; and on the same day Mr. George Smith was appointed to succeed Mr. Forbes in the Eastern District at the lessened salary of 250*l.* a year.

Pensions.

20. The pension list remains unaltered at a charge of 1,507*l.* 10*s.* per annum ; less 70*l.* to Mr. Tickel which remains in abeyance whilst he occupies the office of Political Agent of this Government. The list contains an allowance of 125*l.* to two Badagry Chiefs which, strictly speaking, should be charged to "Aborigines," and will be transferred, when the net sum payable yearly will be 1,312*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*

Population.

21. The census taken in the year (1871) placed this as composed of:—

Males - - - -	27,863
Females - - - -	32,358
Total - - - -	60,221

The census taken this year gives as the population 75,270, which would exhibit an increase of 15,049, a considerable gain if the enumeration of 1871 was accepted as correct; but it is not. The general belief is that the population was much larger in 1871 than represented by the census of that year, and that the increase is rather the result of greater accuracy in the last enumeration than from natural causes and immigration. The births in 1880 were 195; marriages, 87.

22. The deaths in 1880 were as follows:

——	1 to 7.	7 to 14.	14 to 21.	21 and upwards.	Total.
Native Population:					
Males - -	133	14	21	181	349
Females - -	131	8	6	173	318
Total - -	264	22	27	354	667
White People:					
Males - -	—	—	—	14	15
Females -	1	—	—	—	
Total - -	265	22	27	368	682

23. It will be observed that the greatest mortality begins with children from 1 to 7 years, pointing to the want of proper attention and care; and culminates when the ages reach to 21 and upwards.

24. The following figures represent the results of six years in :—

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1875 - - - -	170	54	521
1876 - - - -	198	65	630
1877 - - - -	201	61	656
1878 - - - -	197	69	842
1879 - - - -	194	81	840
1880 - - - -	195	87	682
Totals - -	1,155	417	4,171
Averages - -	192½	69½	695

It will be seen by the figures given that the death rate in 1880 was some 20 per cent. less than in 1878 and 1879, which I attribute in part to the improved sanitary condition of the Settlement and of Lagos especially.

25. The deaths among Europeans plus one American (an infant) during each month of the year were 15, and were due to the following causes :—

Causes.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Fever - - -	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	6
Apoplexy - - -	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery and fever -	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute enteritis - -	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Debility - - -	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Delirium tremens -	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Inanition - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diarrhœa - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Fracture - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total - -	2	2	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	3	15

26. The sufferers in the above cases divided according to nationality were:—

	American.	Brazilian.	Spanish.	English.	French.	German.	Portuguese.	Total.
Totals, 1	- -	1	1	3	3	3	3	15
From Fever alone, 1	-	1	1	1	1	—	1	

27. The deaths among the natives in 1880 were:—

Males - - - -	349
Females - - - -	318
Total - - - -	667

The principal causes of mortality appear to have been as follows:—

	No.
Fever - - - - -	257
Fits - - - - - -	98
Dysentery - - - - -	69
Cough - - - - - -	43
Rheumatism - - - - -	27
Debility - - - - -	25
Natural causes - - - - -	17
Dropsy - - - - - -	16
Diarrhœa - - - - -	11
Still-born - - - - -	10
Convulsions - - - - -	9
	582
And the remaining - - - -	85
were attributable to various causes.	
Total - - - -	667

Some of these arose thus:—

Drowned - - - - -	7
Gun shot wound - - - -	5
Craw craw - - - - -	3
Chigre sores - - - - -	2
Chicken-pox - - - - -	2
Guinea worm - - - - -	2
Worms - - - - -	1
Poison - - - - - -	1
Starvation - - - - -	1
Broken neck - - - -	1
	25

LAGOS.

The Chigre insect, which is well known in the West Indies, found its way to Lagos about three years ago, and has since been a terrible scourge to the natives, who have often entreated me to tell them how they can get rid of these terrible pests. Many people are rendered quite helpless by them.

28. The measures which have been taken of late years to improve the sanitary condition of Lagos are, I hope, beginning to exercise their beneficial influence upon the public health. It is most gratifying to notice that the mortality of 1880 is 20 per cent. less than in 1878 and 1879, notwithstanding that 1880 was in many respects what is termed "a hard year" for Lagos. The deaths among Europeans, which were 10 in 1879, rose to 15 in 1880, but only 10 of these can be attributed to climatic causes. People who come here from abroad are now more careful of themselves than were many of their predecessors. The town is kept cleaner than formerly, and in this respect improvement is going on steadily. The houses are far superior to what they were formerly, the living is better, and although the climate is depressing and trying and cannot be termed healthy, yet the Lagos to day is as different and superior in every way to the same place when ceded in 1861 as it is possible to conceive; whilst as regards appearance it is undoubtedly the finest town on the Gold Coast; and with its European looking houses, its fine Marina, and the river alive with steamers and sailing vessels, it presents to the stranger the idea of what it is—an active, stirring, business centre.

Ecclesiastical.

29. There are four Christian religious denominations in the Settlement, particulars of which appear in the following table:—

—	No. of Ministers and Catechists.	Churches and other Buildings used for Public Worship.	Seat Accommodation for Persons attending.	Number of Persons generally attending.
Church of England -	8 ministers 3 catechists	13	4,400	2,727
Wesleyan - -	9	7	1,900	990
Roman Catholic -	5	2	1,090	690
Baptist - -	1	1	300	175
Tota -	26	23	7,690	4,582

30. Of the ministers of the Church Missionary Society one is a European, and the remaining seven are natives, and they are a most exemplary body of men possessing the true missionary spirit. But equally animated by the same spirit are the ministers of the other religious denominations. Of the Wesleyans, four are European and five native ministers. The Catholic priests are all Europeans, and the Baptist minister is an American, and a most estimable man. I cannot speak too highly of the services of all of the missionaries to the Settlement. They conduct the education of its young people, and Lagos owes them an incalculable debt of gratitude for the good they have done here, not only as regards education but especially with reference to their unceasing efforts in promoting the Christian religion, to the advancement of which many of them sacrifice their lives, and these may indeed be regarded as martyrs in the cause; nor must I omit to mention that the Catholics are aided and strengthened by a sisterhood of European ladies, who devote their attention to the education of the native girls and who are quietly, but most successfully, carrying on their labour of love with a devotion which commands admiration, and with a self denial and sacrifice which hitherto, alas, has caused many of them to succumb beneath climatic influences, and thus to find early graves in the country of their adoption.

Education.

31. The following figures represent the number of children who are being taught in the schools of the various religious denominations:—

——	In connexion with the Church of England.	Wesleyans.	Roman Catholics.	Baptists.	Total.
Males - -	728	361	145	27	1,261
Females - -	567	232	171	23	993
Total -	1,295	593	316	50	2,254

32. From these figures it appears that at a rough calculation the Church Missionary Society educates 1,295, or rather more than one half the children at school in Lagos, the Wesleyans 593, or rather more than one fourth, and the Catholics 316, or rather more than one eighth of the number.

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33. The educational returns for the year afford the following information :—

Schools.

Schools in 1880 connected with	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Pupils.	Cost of Teaching.	School Fees, &c.
				£	£
Church of England -	16	35	1,295	1,303	383
Wesleyan Church -	8	21	593	766	529
Roman Cath. Church	2	9	316	285	—
Baptist Church -	1	2	50	70	—
Total -	27	67	2,254	2,424	912

which shows the average cost of teaching each pupil as 1*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

The Settlement contributes 600*l.* per annnm towards the education of the people, the distributions being 200*l.* each to the three principal teaching bodies.

Imports and Exports.

34. I put below the figures of five years from 1876 to 1880 inclusive.

Years.	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Exports over Imports.
	£	£	£
1876 - -	476,813	619,260	142,447
1877 - -	614,359	734,708	120,349
1878 - -	485,502	577,336	91,834
1879 - -	527,872	654,380	126,508
1880 - -	407,370	576,510	169,140
Totals -	2,511,916	3,162,194	650,278
Averages -	502,383	632,439	130,056

35. It will be seen by these figures that there was a large falling off in the trade of the Settlement in 1878, a revival in 1879, and that although the transactions of 1880 were less in volume than in 1879, yet the exports were in excess of imports in 1880, as compared with 1879, by 42,600*l.*

36. The imports in 1880 with their respective values came from the following countries, and are contrasted with those of

1879, thus showing the diminution of the import trade between those places and this Settlement:— LAGOS.

Counties.	1879.	1880.	Decrease.	Increase.
	£	£	£	£
Great Britain - - -	271,781	244,350	27,431	—
Germany - - - -	114,619	84,827	29,792	—
France - - - -	49,642	14,609	35,033	—
Brazil - - - -	28,746	31,580	—	2,834
Belgium - - - -	9,833	—	9,833	—
United States of America - -	2,779	6,675	—	3,896
Zanzibar - - - -	26,486	9,843	16,643	—
African ports, &c. - -	23,986	15,486	8,500	—
Total - - -	527,872	407,370	127,232	6,730
Net decrease in 1880 - -	120,502		120,502	

37. The per-centage of deficiencies of imports in 1880, as compared with 1879 from the countries mentioned, is as follows:—

			£
Great Britain	10	per cent. on	271,781
Germany	35	„ „	114,619
France	70	„ „	49,642
Belgium	100	„ „	9,833
Zanzibar	63	„ „	26,486
African ports	35	„ „	23,986

Foreign imports have therefore fallen off heavily, whilst those from Great Britain show a moderate per-centage of deficiency on a large amount of imports.

38. On the other hand, the imports have increased:—From Brazil on 28,746*l.* by 10 per cent. From the United States on 2,779*l.* by 140 per cent.

39. Of the imports in 1880, 34,748*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* in value were exported.

40. The following statement exhibits the values of the principal imports, exclusive of those in transit, and indicates the countries from which they were received.

Principal Merchandise imported.	Great Britain.	Germany.	France.	Brazils.	United States America.	Mozambique.	Zanzibar.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Aerated waters - -	264	28	19	—	—	—	—	311
Ale and porter - -	713	882	—	—	—	—	—	1,595
Ammunition - -	321	25	58	—	—	—	—	404
Apparel - - -	1,838	241	22	—	—	—	—	2,101
Beads - - -	2,391	—	341	—	—	—	—	2,732
Beef - - -	139	—	—	1,427	409	—	—	1,975
Books - - -	1,285	—	—	—	51	—	—	1,336
Boats and canoes -	335	71	103	—	—	—	—	509
Boots and shoes - -	547	62	—	—	85	—	—	694
Brandy - - -	907	21	—	—	—	—	—	928
Bread - - -	870	10	—	—	36	—	—	916
Cotton goods - -	131,958	1,638	—	3,910	397	—	—	137,903
Building materials -	975	211	39	21	215	—	—	1,461
Butter - - -	290	117	—	—	—	—	—	407
Candles - - -	573	—	16	—	—	—	—	589

Principal Merchandise imported.	Great Britain.	Germany.	France.	Brazils.	United States America.	Mozambique.	Zanzibar.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cowries	429	—	1,638	—	—	5,346	7,759	15,172
Earthenware	3,936	—	127	—	—	—	—	4,063
Flints	491	—	—	—	—	—	—	491
Geneva	6,315	31,117	275	—	—	—	—	37,707
Guns	4,726	1,647	441	—	—	—	—	6,814
Gunpowder	514	—	1,028	—	—	—	—	1,542
Haberdashery	7,328	20	17	—	—	—	—	7,365
Hardware	5,842	550	46	—	—	—	—	6,438
Hoop iron	1,383	472	434	—	—	—	—	2,289
Iron, galvanised	1,134	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,134
Lumber	101	1,599	70	—	535	—	—	2,305
Oilman's stores	2,860	798	267	—	—	—	—	3,925
Pistols	280	31	—	—	—	—	—	311
Rice	2,970	69	67	—	—	—	—	3,106
Rum	6,421	21,223	1,410	9,359	156	—	—	38,569
Salt	785	4,654	—	—	—	—	—	5,439
Shooks	3,105	3,822	1,585	—	306	—	—	8,818
Shot	624	218	275	—	—	—	—	1,117
Silk	2,410	397	—	—	—	—	—	2,807
Specie	13,951	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,951
Stationery	872	62	24	—	—	—	—	958
Sugar, refined	981	15	—	—	—	—	—	996
„ unrefined	286	—	—	32	165	—	—	483
Tobacco	4,010	1,878	500	4,350	2,048	—	—	12,786
Twine	2,155	494	—	—	—	—	—	2,649
Wines	1,388	548	143	119	—	—	—	2,198
Woollen goods	1,960	339	—	—	—	—	—	2,299
Total	220,663	73,259	8,945	19,218	4,403	5,346	7,759	339,593

41. Arms and ammunition figure in the above statement as follows, say from:—

Articles.	Great Britain.	Germany.	France.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Ammunition	321	25	58	404
Gun flints	491	—	—	491
Guns	4,726	1,647	441	6,814
Gunpowder	514	—	1,028	1,542
Pistols	280	31	—	311
Shot	624	218	275	1,117
Total	6,956	1,921	1,802	10,679

42. Imports of spirits, likely from their peculiar composition to be productive of far more injury to the native population than ammunition and arms, came from the under-mentioned countries:—

Articles.	Great Britain.	Germany.	France.	Brazils.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Brandy	907	21	—	—	928
Geneva	6,315	31,117	275	—	37,707
Rum	6,421	21,223	1,410	9,359	38,413
Total	13,643	52,361	1,685	9,359	77,048

43. Of this amount Great Britain sends about one sixth and Germany about four sixths.

44. The duties on imports for 1880 yielded the sum of 40,902*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, and in 1879 the amount was 46,860*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, exhibiting a falling off in 1880 of 5,957*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*

45. Of the above duty of 40,902*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* there was collected upon ordinary imports 39,210*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, and upon merchandise "in transit" for other places, and at reduced rates of duty, 1,692*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*; total 40,902*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, less fractional differences of 6*d.*, making as above 40,902*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

46. The value of the exports from the Settlement was 576,510*l.* Of this, native produce, as valued below, was sent to the undermentioned countries. The imports thence are added afterwards so as in part to account for the contraction in the trade of the Settlement in 1880.

Produce.	Great Britain.	Germany.	France.	Brazil.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Beniseed	612	—	—	—	612
Ivory	111	115	—	—	226
Kola nuts	—	—	—	1,346	1,346
Palm oil	72,735	27,349	20,009	13,132	133,225
Palm kernels	172,587	136,468	37,091	—	346,146
Potash	143	—	—	—	143
Shea butter	—	—	—	32	32
Total	246,188	163,932	57,100	14,510	481,730
Imports 1880	244,350	84,827	14,609	31,500	375,286
Excess of exports of produce over general imports from the countries stated in 1880	1,838	79,105	42,491	Increase 16,990 123,434	106,444

47. In the foregoing statement, Great Britain has balanced her account with the Settlement for the year, less 1,838*l.* Germany has withdrawn 79,105*l.*; France 42,499*l.*; whilst Brazil has thrown 16,990*l.* of capital into her business with the Settlement; the net result being a contraction of operations to the extent of 106,444*l.*

48. The following statements contrast the quantities and values of produce shipped to the countries mentioned in 1879 and 1880.

Gallons of Palm Oil.

Exported to	In 1879.	In 1880.	Deficiency in 1880 as compared with 1879.
Great Britain	960,992	792,276	168,716
Germany	362,140	279,015	83,125
France	965,683	296,798	668,885
Brazil	180,603	158,334	22,269
Total	2,469,418	1,526,423	942,995 Deficiency in 1880.

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Value of Palm Oil.

Exported to	1879.	1880.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Great Britain - - -	79,454	72,735	6,719
Germany - - -	35,907	27,349	8,558
France - - - -	76,881	20,009	56,872
Brazil - - - -	16,553	13,132	3,421
Total - - -	208,795	133,225	75,570 Deficiency in 1880.

Palm Kernels (Tons).

Exported to	In 1879.	In 1880.	Decrease.	Increase.
Great Britain - - -	11,666	15,101	—	3,435
Germany - - - -	6,611	10,842	—	4,231
France - - - -	9,563	3,690	5,873	7,666
Total - - -	27,840	29,633	Net increase in 1880.	1,793

Value of Palm Kernels (Tons).

Exported to	1879.	1880.	Decrease.	Increase.
	£	£	£	£
Great Britain - - -	141,315	172,587	—	31,272
Germany - - - -	79,879	136,468	—	56,589
France - - - -	98,251	37,091	61,160	87,861 61,160
Total - - -	319,445	346,146	Net increase in 1880.	26,701

Recapitutation.

	£
Total, palm oil, (gallons) 1,526,423, value -	133,225
Total, palm kernels, (tons) 29,633, value -	346,146
Total value of this produce, exported 1880 -	479,371
Total value of this produce exported in 1879 -	528,240
Deficiency in value in 1880 - -	48,869

Shipping.

49. The following statements refer to the carrying trade of Lagos:—

Sailing Vessels.

From.	British.			Foreign.			Total.		
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Great Britain -	2	314	17	3	635	24	5	949	41
Germany -	—	—	—	28	8,683	282	28	8,683	282
France - -	—	—	—	22	7,525	247	22	7,525	247
African Ports -	3	624	25	26	7,299	265	29	7,923	290
United States -	—	—	—	1	388	10	1	388	10
Brazils - -	—	—	—	11	2,622	105	11	2,622	105
Total -	5	938	42	91	27,152	933	96	28,090	975

50. It appears therefore, that the British carrying trade to Lagos in 1880 by sailing ships was confined to five vessels, of 938 tons, with 42 men; whilst the foreign was represented by 91 vessels, of 27,152 tons, with 933 men.

51. "The clearances" of sailing vessels in 1880 were :—British five, of 966 tons, with 47 men; and foreign, 91, of 26,294 tons, with 898 men.

52. With respect to steam vessels: 270 were entered in 1880, of 162,650 tons, with 8,629 men, but of these 141 were British mail steamers, with a total tonnage of 150,200, and 6,080 men; 117 with a tonnage of 9,675, and employing 2,322 men, were engaged in the trade by river with Porto Novo; and 12 were from European and African ports, with a total tonnage of 2,775, and 227 men.

53. Many of the mail steamers made several voyages to the Settlement during the year. With respect to the steamers between Lagos and Porto Novo, there were only six, of about 600 tons altogether, the constant repetition of their voyages running up the total to 117, and also creating the large nominal tonnage and crews.

54. The clearances of steamers were 272, with a total tonnage of 161,358, and with 8,847 men.

55. Taking the shipping arriving at Lagos it appears that the carrying trade in sailing vessels in 1880 was in the hands of foreigners, for whilst only five British vessels of 938 tons were entered at the Custom House in 1880, the foreign vessels entered were 91 with a tonnage of 27,152.

56. On the other hand, as respects steamers, British vessels preponderated, as out of 270 entries of steamers at the Custom House, 163 of 152,189 tons were British; and 107 of 10,491 tons foreign; deducting five foreign vessels of 1,930 tons, it will be seen that the foreign vesssels (German) employed in the Porto Novo trade were apparently 102 of 8,561 tons, but the actual number of foreign steamers in this business was only three, and they were almost constantly going to and fro.

Gaols and Prisons.

57. There were committed to gaol in 1880, 351 persons, and to the debtors department 18, making a total of 369.

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There had been previously committed out of the number of 351: once, 299; twice, 46; thrice or oftener, 6; total, 351.

58. Of the gross commitments of 369, there were for five years and upwards, 41; for not less than one year nor more than five years, 26; for more than three months, but less than one year, 23; for three months and less, 279, total, 369.

59. The daily average number in gaol was 137; the total number of admissions to the hospital in the year was 96; the daily average on the sick list, 6; the number of deaths during the year, 4; or at the rate of 2 $\frac{90}{100}$ per cent. The prevailing diseases were dracunculus, rheumatism, ulcers, and chicken-pox.

60. The expenditure on gaols and prisons for the year amounted to 2,396*l.* 7*s.*

61. The following statement exhibits a favourable comparison of the criminal statistics of Lagos for 1880 with that of the three years preceding as regards offences, apprehensions, &c.:—

	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.
The Number of Offences reported to the Police.				
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates	709	995	949	1,060
The Number of Summary Convictions.				
1. For offences against the person - -	147	163	304	302
2. For cattle stealing and arson - -	24	21	28	13
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - - -	106	286	187	232
4. For other offences - - -	85	222	150	192
The Number of Convictions in the Superior Courts.				
1. For offences against the person - -	19	11	10	14
2. For cattle stealing and arson - -	5	6	1	—
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - - -	51	59	43	43
4. For other offences - - -	12	22	21	10
The Number of Persons acquitted.				
1. In the inferior courts - - -	222	175	175	302
2. In the superior courts - - -	38	30	30	44

Hospitals.

62. On 1st January 1880 there were 28 patients in the Colonial Hospital from the previous year, 20 being men and 8 women. During the year 545 were admitted, namely, 489 men and 56 women. The daily average number in the house excluding fractions was 33, composed of 25 men and 8 women. The patients discharged were 466, namely, 433 men and 33 women. The deaths were 65, of which 49 were those of men and 16 of women. Five cases of small-pox were treated in the hospital. There were no deaths from this cause.

63. The following statement explains itself:—

Table of cases of each kind of disease treated in the hospital in the year, and the number of deaths from each such disease:—

Diseases treated.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.
Nervous system - - - -	18	3
Circulatory - - - - -	49	20
Respiratory - - - - -	18	6
Digestive - - - - -	35	7
Urinary - - - - -	6	1
Generative - - - - -	4	—
Cutaneous - - - - -	81	8
Surgical - - - - -	109	3
Fevers - - - - -	158	5
Venereal - - - - -	16	2
Guinea worm - - - -	11	—
Other diseases - - - -	16	
Diseases of blood - - - -	19	9
Rheumatism - - - -	28	1
Total - - -	568	65

64. The total number of out-patients attended to at the hospital from 1st January to 31st December 1880 was 11,563.

65. The number of persons successfully vaccinated during the year is stated to have been 20,395, whilst 1,469 cases were unsuccessful.

66. One lunatic was received in 1880, and one, a man aged 35, died of epilepsy. The average daily number in confinement was three.

Miscellaneous.

67. During 1880, the demonetization of foreign silver coin was decreed, and about 30,000*l.*, chiefly in dollar coin, was withdrawn from circulation, the vacuum being supplied by British silver. The change was generally unpalatable, and particularly so to the native community, who held a considerable quantity of dollars, which previously current at 4*s.* 2*d.* each, declined in value to 3*s.* 9*d.* and 3*s.* 6*d.*, although some persons took them in payment of debts at the old rate. Public opinion, however, has latterly fully recognised the advantage of discontinuing the use of a currency which was considerably beyond its intrinsic value, and attended with drawbacks, especially as regarded remittances to Europe, which were not fully perceived until the circulation of foreign silver coin was dispensed with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, administering the Government of Lagos.

His Excellency
Governor Sir Samuel Rowe, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c.

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